

THE TIMES

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Brown aims for two-year freeze on spending

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GORDON BROWN will today announce a two-year clampdown on public spending under Labour and warn the unions that the prolonged squeeze on the pay of six million state sector employees will go on.

The Shadow Chancellor, delivering his most austere message yet to fellow Labour politicians, union chiefs and local government leaders, is to reveal that a Labour government would freeze overall public spending for two years at the levels announced by Kenneth Clarke in the November Budget.

The totals will stay fixed at £266 billion for 1997-8 and £273 billion for 1998-9. Labour will use that fact to try to blunt the Conservative charge that it would inevitably raise taxes. In an unprecedented move that will remove an early potential source of conflict for a Blair administration, he will say that this year's annual spending review, in which ministers compete to carve the spending cake, is

The heads of some of Britain's biggest companies will proclaim their support for a minimum wage tomorrow. Page 48

to be scrapped. Instead individual ministers will be charged with carrying out an overhaul of their own department's budget to cut spending on non-essential areas and concentrate it on meeting Labour's stated priorities.

Although the overall departmental spending limits will stay, Mr Brown will allow ministers to change priorities as soon as they can identify them. In addition, Mr Brown is to announce the EDX committee chaired by the Chancellor, which carries out the annual spending discussions, will embark on a root-and-branch review of Britain's public spending system designed to shift resources to high priority areas and reshape the distribution of spending into the next century. The EDX committee, on which senior Cabinet ministers serve, will also monitor the individual departmental reviews.

Mr Brown's announcements, to businessmen at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, mark his most striking attempt yet both to play down expectations and to convince the electorate and the City that his tough approach to spending and tax is serious.

Aides believe that his acceptance of the Government's spending figures will convince voters that Labour has no need to raise personal taxes. He will say: "These are the figures on which departments are already planning and should continue to plan." Labour councils across the country will get the same message.

Under the Brown plan every spending minister will be expected to justify every item in their budgets, making savings in the low priority areas and redirecting them to frontline needs. His decision not to hold a formal spending review this year and instead to accept the overall figure planned by the Government for 1998-9 means that the long-predicted "bloodbath" in which Labour ministers were supposed to fight each other for resources the moment a Labour government was elected, will not apparently take place.

The arguments may, however, be stored up for later in the life of the Government when priorities as between departments rather than within them are changed. If Labour wins, Mr Brown's first Budget is being planned for six to eight weeks after the general election.

He will today promise a firm but fair approach to public sector pay, saying: "Just as we will resist every other unreasonable demand on the public purse, we will resist unreasonable public sector pay demands." There will be no extra money from the Government and pay increases must come from the tough limits on every department.

Mr Brown will say that Labour's guiding principles on spending are that public money should be spent efficiently and provide value and that it should be spent wisely in line with its priorities. Mr Brown is making it clear that the windfall tax on the privatised utilities will form part of his first Budget. His advisers say that there are no legal obstacles to its introduction.

Trade union reaction last night to Mr Brown's plan suggested that the Labour leadership will not face a backlash this side of an election. However, senior figures warned of the danger of struggles if an incoming Labour government takes a tougher line than the Conservatives in restraining public sector pay.

Peter Riddell, page 20



"I've never known Dave to embrace a Labour policy so quickly"

Archbishop takes a sabbatical

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 500 speeches, 43 foreign trips, 44 consecrations of bishops and 220 television broadcasts, Dr George Carey, has given up his duties for two months.

Managers and stockbrokers who need a break take sabbaticals, while vicars and bishops who have preached one too many sermons go on retreat. At least, that is the general view. But after a punishing schedule

over the last few months the Archbishop has taken a leaf out of the modern manager's handbook and is taking a two-month sabbatical.

Dr Carey flew to Washington DC on Saturday for four weeks of rest and recuperation during which time, aides say, he plans to read, reflect, pray and possibly start work on a book.

However attempts to keep his precise whereabouts secret have not been entirely successful. His chaplain, the Reverend Colin Fletcher, said: "We have not

wanted to publicise where he is but lots of people have already discovered he's going to be there and have invited him to do things like speaking."

Dr Carey will be in Washington for four weeks and will spend the last three weeks of his sabbatical at Lambeth Palace.

The sabbatical year dates from the earliest church history. It was established in Mosaic Jewish tradition by the command in Deuteronomy that one year in seven should be a "sabbath" when

Continued on page 2, col 5

Arafat returns to Hebron in triumph

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER

YASSER ARAFAT returned in triumph to Hebron yesterday after an absence of more than 30 years and declared to jubilant applause from a crowd of more than 30,000 Palestinians that it was a "liberated city".

Speaking from the balcony of the former Israeli military headquarters, he appealed to the 450 Jewish settlers in the city which came under Palestinian self-rule on Friday to help to work towards a full and final peace with Israel.

"While I stand here in Hebron, I tell the settlers we do not want a confrontation," he said. Less than two miles away, the militant settlers, living under heavy military guard, scorned his gesture, calling him a "master murderer".

Triumphant Arafat, page 9

Village holds its alternative service

Parishioners who are boycotting their village church because their vicar divorced and then married his curate, were celebrating yesterday after their first prayer meeting proved more popular than a service conducted by the Reverend Royston Such. There was standing room only at the village hall in Ropley, Hampshire. Page 3

Tolkien's 'Book of the Century'

The epic fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, has been voted the Book of the Century by Waterstones' customers. Names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make the top 100. Page 4

Rifkind challenges Kohl on Europe

Malcolm Rifkind yesterday challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate. The Foreign Secretary asked the Chancellor to prove that he was not a federalist. Page 2

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Top sports stars are targeted by letter bombers

By Adrian Lee
AND CRAIG LORD

BRITISH sports stars Sharon Davies and Frank Bruno are believed to be among the targets of a letter-bomb campaign by the extreme right-wing group Combat 18. Other athletes in mixed-race relationships are also feared to be on a hit-list after the seizure of three packages and the arrest of seven people in Denmark.

Miss Davies, a former Olympic swimmer and now a television presenter, is married to the former Olympic athlete Derek Redmond. The retired boxer Frank Bruno has a white wife, Laura.

Scotland Yard was involved in moves to foil the plot, also aimed at left-wing activists. Officers who infiltrated far-right groups passed information to Interpol.

Danish sources said Boris Becker, the German tennis player whose wife Barbara Felus-Forst is black, was another target.

Miss Davies, 34, said yesterday that she was aware of the bombing campaign but added: "This is a police matter and I really can't say anything." She and her husband have received hate-mail from Combat 18 in the past. Her father, Terry, said: "I suppose they are easy targets but they don't let it affect them."

The intended recipients have all been alerted by police.

Saturday's arrests in Denmark — of five men and two women in their 20s — were made under the country's terrorist laws after a tip-off that explosive devices, made of nitroglycerine and concealed inside video cassettes, were being addressed there, then taken by boat to Sweden for posting to London.

Network of terror, page 4

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Tories to remove education authorities' powers



Booth: to represent union at High Court

TORY election strategists are to target Labour-dominated local education authorities, with manifesto commitments designed to undermine Tony Blair's stance over the central issue of school standards.

Measures to be considered at next week's Chequers summit on the Tory manifesto would strip town halls of their veto over school admissions and send "hit squads" into the worst-performing authorities. Schools would be given control over virtually all of their budgets, leaving authorities to sell their services to survive.

Councils would share responsibility for planning secondary school places with a quango. This would remove an obstacle to John Major's drive for selective schooling. Mr Blair has placed edu-

■ At their Chequers manifesto summit, the Conservatives will debate proposals that councils should have to compete to sell schools their services, John O'Leary writes

tion at the head of his party's priorities, accusing the Tories of failing to tackle underachievement in schools. But primary school league tables to be published before the election will give ministers ammunition for a fresh assault on Labour's record in local government. As in secondary schools, the worst results will be found in Labour-controlled authorities.

This morning, the National Association of Head Teachers begins a High Court challenge

to the publication of the tables. The union will be represented by the barrister, Cherie Booth, QC, Mr Blair's wife, who will argue on their behalf that the tables are unfair because the results take no account of absence or the number of children excused from taking last summer's tests because of special educational needs.

If the action succeeds, the tables will not appear before the election. When they are published, however, certain inner-London boroughs and

northern authorities are likely to offer easy targets for ministers anxious to blame low standards on Labour.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has already introduced inspections of local authorities. But the Education Bill, which completed its committee stage last week, contains no sanctions against authorities deemed unsatisfactory.

A re-elected Tory government would create the concept of a "failing" authority to parallel the system for schools. In cases of failure, the Funding Agency for Schools would take over key functions, such as responsibility for admissions policies and planning new places.

The agency already has a "school improvement unit",

which has used consultants to tackle problems in six grant-maintained schools. Its role could be extended to cover failing authorities. The committee drafting the education section of the Tory manifesto has stopped short of recommending that all schools become grant-maintained, preferring to attack Labour on the issue of parental choice. The manifesto will promise schools self-government without the need to opt out.

At least 95 per cent of the money earmarked for schools would be controlled by governors, forcing local authorities to bid for contracts in virtually all areas, including school transport and provision for special educational needs.

However, some Conservatives, still hope a more radical

programme will emerge from the Chequers meeting. Right-wingers have been lobbying for vouchers to be introduced for mainstream schooling, and the supporters of opting out want local authorities to lose their responsibility for secondary schools.

Sir Robert Balchin, the chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, said: "Self-government is impossible while local education authorities continue."

Sir Robert, who is also a member of the Funding Agency, predicted that authorities would circumvent the regulations by insisting that schools bought packages of services.

Labour said the plans were at odds with Mrs Shephard's instructions to authorities to be more active in raising

school standards. She told education officers last Friday that she was considering giving them powers to issue formal warnings to schools in danger of failure. If there was no improvement, authorities would take back control of the school from its governors.

A Labour spokesman said the party had made the original proposal for inspections of education authorities, but did not consider formal sanctions necessary because annual council elections left power with the electorate. Labour had proposed a limit of £50 per pupil for administrative costs, but ministers had taken no action in the Education Bill.

Ballot 97, page 6
Blunkett letter, page 21

Rifkind tells Kohl to spell out EU limits

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM RIFKIND yesterday challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate.

The Foreign Secretary told the Chancellor and other leaders to prove their claim that they were not federalists. "I think the time has come really to ask them to indicate what are the limits of the integration that they seek," he said. "What would be the European Union that they would like to see in 10 or 20 years' time. In what way would that fall short of federalism?"

His comments were the first public demand from a Cabinet minister for pro-European leaders to set out their precise ambitions for the future of the Union. Pressing the need for a flexible European Union in which some countries could integrate more closely while others opted out, Mr Rifkind insisted that all member states must approve any move allowing the creation of an inner core. Without unanimity, it could not be right for core countries to have access to the EU budget, the European Court and the resources of the

European Commission to support those initiatives.

Mr Rifkind told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that he had privately urged Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, to spell out his country's long-term objectives, but it had never really been debated publicly.

His demands came on the eve of a Brussels meeting in which Britain expects support for its demand that there should be a flexible system backed by unanimous voting. British ministers claim to have the support of up to five countries for their plan. Paris and Bonn want a "flexibility chapter" written into the Treaty of Amsterdam in June that prevents a single country vetoing a flexible system.

Mr Rifkind said: "The issue of flexibility is probably the most important issue that's being discussed at the inter-governmental conference."

John Major believes that the flexibility issue will be the key to breaking the deadlock on future development of the Union. Among the main policy areas for greater flexibility are defence, immigration and asylum issues.



Police and soldiers search a field near Warminster yesterday in the hunt for Zoe Evans, missing for nine days

Police dig in garden at Zoe's home

POLICE began digging in the front garden of Zoe Evans's home yesterday as prayers were said in local churches for the missing nine-year-old (Adrian Lee writes). Witnesses said that police officers used a spade to dig a strip 8ft long and 2ft wide in the garden of her home in Warminster, Wiltshire.

A police spokeswoman said the action was part of a systematic search of the house and surrounding area. She added that items had been found, but could not say whether they were connected with the

child's disappearance until they had been identified.

Police asked for more time to question the missing girl's parents about her suspected murder. On Saturday night, magistrates agreed a warrant extending the time that her mother, Paula Evans, 28, and stepfather Miles Evans, 23, could be detained for interview. This morning police must apply for a new warrant if the couple have not been charged or released.

Officers are investigating hundreds of possible sightings of Zoe, last seen nine

days ago. Over the weekend they questioned 6,000 people in Warminster. Shoppers were shown a video of a child walking behind a man and a woman through the town's Three Horseshoes mall — thought to be the last sighting of her. A 15ft billboard bearing her picture was towed through the streets.

Inspector Geoff Hicks admitted hopes of finding the girl alive were fading. "Given the length of time since her disappearance, I am afraid we are having to prepare ourselves for the worst."

Social services face wave of privatisation

The £8 billion social services empire may be handed in full to charities and private companies under proposals being put forward for the Conservative manifesto. Gerry Malone, the junior Health Minister, yesterday gave the clearest hint yet that the Government was planning a large-scale privatisation of elderly people's homes, meals-on-wheels, adoption, fostering and help for the mentally handicapped. He endorsed the idea of getting "more care... for the pound."

Local authorities, which employ 234,000 people in social services departments, could be reduced to a largely administrative role. Mr Malone said on *The World This Weekend* on BBC Radio 4: "It would be ludicrous to suggest that we shouldn't be looking for opportunities in all sorts of policy areas, to extend it [privatisation] where it is sensible to do so, because it brings a lot of public benefit which the public recognise."

IRA mortars miss

A woman motorist and two police officers escaped when the IRA fired two mortars at an RUC patrol on the outskirts of Downpatrick, Co Down, on Saturday night. An RUC spokesman said the mortars missed their target. The woman, whose car had been caught in the blast, was treated in hospital for shock. Róimé Flanagan, the chief constable of the RUC, condemned the attack and told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* that, with it, the IRA had demonstrated total disregard for the safety of the public.

Cardinal's schools view

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, called yesterday, on BBC Radio's *Sunday* programme, for greater public spending in education and on smaller class sizes. The leader of Britain's Catholics, who recently sparked controversy by condemning abortion, insisted that smaller classes were better for pupils. A report last year by Ofsted, the schools watchdog, said that, outside the early years of schooling, class size made little difference to educational achievement.

Tory MPs attack activists

Tory MPs criticised some of the party's most senior officials and activists for secretly considering changes to the way a leader is elected. According to BBC's *On The Record* programme, 25 chairmen and senior agents met last weekend and discussed changes which would reduce the role of MPs and give 20 per cent of the vote to the executive committee of the National Union, the party's voluntary wing. Peter Temple-Morris said the union was behaving as if the general election were already lost.

Gun dealers seek help

Two hundred firearms dealers will meet with receivers in London today for discussions on compensation over the proposed ban on handguns. Most traders are resigned to the legislation which will outlaw all handguns above .22 calibre and force smaller weapons to be kept at secure gun clubs. Many businesses have already folded and the remainder are intent on persuading the Government to compensate retailers for loss of premises, stock and trade. The meeting will be at Westminster Central Hall.

Thunderflash alert

Army bomb disposal experts were called to the house of royal protection officer Michael Coulton by police investigating the murder of his wife Patricia. Officers searching the house in Woking, Surrey, were believed to have found a thunderflash, an explosive device used in military training. The incident on Saturday afternoon came just hours after Mr Coulton, 52, was remanded in custody by Reading magistrates after being charged with a number of firearms offences.

Army barracks for sale

Chelsea Barracks, home of the Coldstream Guards, is for sale and could be the first of many army bases to be privatised or redeveloped to raise money. The 37-acre Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow and the Royal Military Academy site at Woolwich are also for sale. The Ministry of Defence has decided that all three should be offered to the commercial sector under the Government's Private Finance Initiative. The ministry said security and operational needs would be paramount.

Howard defends bugging legislation

BY JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL HOWARD insists that his controversial Police Bill strikes the right balance between protecting civil liberties and fighting serious crime. The Bill, which faces a close vote in the House of Lords tonight, would give police the right to break into private property and plant bugging devices without authorisation.

In *The Times*, the Home Secretary says that the legislation would ensure that the police were accountable. All buggings would be reviewed by a "commissioner", probably a High Court judge, who would investigate complaints. Senior lawyers and judges have attacked the Bill as a threat to civil liberties and in a letter to *The Times* today, eight senior members of the medical profession voice concern over possible infringement of the confidential relationship between doctor and patient if surgeries were bugged. Opposition divisions mean Mr Howard has a good chance of averting defeat.

Michael Howard, page 20
Letters, page 21

Ashdown moves to stamp out dissent

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PADDY ASHDOWN moved to head off growing dissent within his party yesterday as a Liberal Democrat MP claimed that his leader's ambitions of a Cabinet post were driving his crusade for closer ties with Labour, with whom he is having talks on a wide range of constitutional reforms.

David Alton, in a newspaper article, warned him against putting his own hopes of ministerial office in a Blair-led government ahead of the interests of the country and his own party. With his fellow MP Chris Davies, he said Mr Ashdown would not win party support for any changes to the voting system that fell short of full proportional representation.

Mr Ashdown, interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, strongly rejected the suggestion that his approach was about personal ambition and underlined that he would not agree to anything less than proportional representation.

He said that Mr Alton's article "is a travesty of all the things that I stand for, of all the things I'm trying to achieve."

Archbishop in US for sabbatical

Continued from page 1
land should remain fallow and all slaves and debtors be freed.

Since being elevated from Bath and Wells in 1991, Dr Carey has visited the Falklands, Turkey, Germany, Papua New Guinea, America, Malta, Kenya, Tanzania and about 30 other countries.

He has been to Rome twice to meet the Pope, has written nearly 200 articles and formally visited 20 of the 43 dioceses in the Church of England. That does not include the one-off speeches and sermons he gives in brief visits to other dioceses, which have been too numerous to count.

On top of all this, he has been scrupulous in fulfilling

his *ex officio* engagements as Archbishop, in attending the House of Bishops meetings, diocesan synods and general synods. He has hosted dinners, receptions and lunches and delivered hundreds of sermons. He has also maintained an active involvement with 300 charities and institutions he is involved with.

Dr Carey is not the first Archbishop to take a sabbatical. His predecessor, Lord Runcie, also took one of similar length about five years into the job. Dozens of clergy take sabbaticals, with the agreement of their diocesan bishop.

He is usually up and working on speeches by 6.30, says matins daily at 7.30 and normally works straight

through the evenings, usually until after 10pm, reading the latest publications on theology, politics and other issues. He has few weekends off.

"He might take the occasional afternoon to go to a football match but he has a punishing schedule. It seems to go with the territory," a spokesman said.

According to some insiders, sabbaticals are becoming increasingly common as the days when a cleric's life consisted of gentle reading in their study and a sermon once a week recede.

The Archbishop was backed by Charles Handy, an expert on the world of work, who took a sabbatical to write his first book, *Understanding Or-*

ganisations, in 1983.

Professor Handy, who is currently writing *The Hungry Spirit*, a book which emphasises the importance of the spiritual life, said: "In today's world, we all work too hard and it is very important to get away, not just to rest but to clear our minds and look at things from a greater distance. A sabbatical is not a holiday, it is a period of structured reflection."

While Dr Carey is away, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, will take the weight. Certain internal matters have been delegated to Canon Fletcher while the diocese of Canterbury is in the hands of the Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Richard Llewellyn.

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Cards

Snub to divorced vicar who married his curate

Rebel parishioners hold service in village hall

By Emma Wilkins

A GROUP of parishioners who are boycotting their village church were celebrating yesterday after their first rival prayer meeting proved overwhelmingly more popular than a service conducted by the local vicar.

There was standing room only at the village hall in Ropley, near Winchester, where 120 parishioners worshipped together for the first time since the Rev Royston Such offended the congregation by divorcing his wife and marrying his curate.

Just a few hundred yards away at the parish church of St Peter, 24 people gathered for matins with Mr Such. He was accompanied to matins in the Norman parish church by his wife, the Rev Tara Riviere. Her curate's licence was removed 10 months ago.

Mr Such, 49, a former solicitor, has rejected calls for his resignation from parishioners and the Bishops of Basingstoke and Southampton. A move to force him from his post under the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure failed last month when the Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev Michael Scott-John, decided not to hold an inquiry.

The rival service, which could become a regular monthly event, was led by Humphrey Carr, a solicitor who lives in the village. "I



Mr Such and his wife heading for church yesterday

must stress that it is not our purpose to be divisive or to provoke. We are not trying to set up a parallel church in this benefice," Mr Carr told the prayer meeting. "If the need is perceived, and there is sufficient interest and support, then we may be able to arrange more services. I am very pleased to see so many friends and supporters here."

Barbara Longlands, former organist and choir mistress at St Peter's, played the piano during the prayer service. "I don't go to the church any more. We used to have a good congregation before the Rev Such arrived but people would rather have their own service than go to St Peter's now. I have never known such trouble in all the 23 years I have lived here," she said.

Among those joining together in prayer and song at the village hall was John Goddard, 70, a retired army officer and former church warden. Mr Goddard, who has lived in Ropley for 40 years, resigned last month from his post at St Peter's following the Bishop of Winchester's decision not to refer parishioners' complaints to a tribunal.

While delighted with the turnout at the rival service, Mr Goddard said the whole affair left him feeling deeply sad. "I always walk past the church and it makes me very sad to think that I will not go back in there while the Rev Such is in charge," he said. "The bishop has urged us to make some kind of rapprochement but I don't think that's going to be possible. We are resolute, but

the bishop is a clever man so perhaps he will find a way to sort this out. It's up to him now," he added. "It was a tremendous service and so lovely to see all the familiar faces from the old congregation. We felt we all wanted to worship together, but not with the Rev Such because we were getting the wrong kind of leadership. I felt I couldn't, in all all honour, stay on as churchwarden under those circumstances," he added.

Mr Goddard said problems with Mr Such began before he divorced his first wife Elizabeth, the mother of his five children, to marry his curate in 1995. "It's not just about his remarriage. He was always rather autocratic. He made all sorts of changes without any consultation," Mr Goddard said.

The bishop has described tensions between the Rev Such and his parishioners in Ropley, Bishops Sutton, and West Tisted as "a wretched pastoral situation" but rejected referring the matter to a tribunal on the grounds that it would be costly, divisive and destructive to all parties.

Complaints and letters about Mr Such began in 1994 but it was only when he married his second wife in a private ceremony 30 miles away from the parish in August 1995 that matters came to a head and the Bishop of Winchester looked into the matter.



Alexander McQueen is applauded by models after his Paris show

Eastender triumphs with Paris collection

By Heidi Brown

THE first haute couture show by Alexander McQueen for the established house of Givenchy proved beyond doubt last night that British fashion designers are now leading the world.

The "East End lad" was always an unlikely choice for such a prestigious house but the gamble has paid off. Taking over from fellow British designer Galliano, who has moved to Dior, McQueen pushed the boundaries of fashion to its limits with a collection based on Greek mythology.

His theatrical, antiquity-inspired collection resembled a costume ball and was supported by a bizarre spectacle of large hairdos and gold-tinted breasts spilling from rib-crushing corsets.

Outlandish imagery including minotaur nose rings and Pegasus feathered wings crafted into corsets shocked the more conservative French, but enthralled the more artistic-minded Americans and British.

The more artistic sensibilities of British designers are sometimes hard to translate into the staid world of haute couture, where dresses can cost up to £40,000. The customer of old for Givenchy has long left the house since the advent of John Galliano last year but a new, more adventurous customer is anticipated on the horizon.

These haute couture collections are more an exercise in publicity to promote the lucrative perfume side of the fashion business, but this is a gauge that McQueen has done his job. This should signify the sweet smell of success for McQueen. It is far from Savile Row, where he nurtured his ability as a brilliant tailor, to Paris where his show returned Givenchy to the cutting edge of fashion.

Police fear pensioner was killed for £200

By A Staff Reporter

POLICE have begun a murder inquiry into a pensioner's death two weeks after concluding that she died from natural causes.

The investigation was reopened after the family of Daphne Cole, 83, expressed concern over pension money being missing. She had picked up £200 from a post office near her home in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, two days before her body was found.

Detectives now believe that Mrs Cole was strangled. A pathologist's report had said she died from a heart attack and the effects of bronchial pneumonia. A second post-mortem examination, by a Home Office pathologist, found injuries that were inconsistent with death by natural causes. These findings were supported by Dr Iain West of Guy's Hospital, central London, a leading pathologist.

Mrs Cole was last seen alive on Saturday January 4, when one of her grandsons took her shopping. The next day, neighbours contacted Mrs Cole's family when they saw that curtains were open and the lights still on.

Her body was found by her daughter, Verna Hamilton, and her husband. Police said the kitchen door was unlocked and the television on. A tray was by the body.

Detective Superintendent Geoff Munns, of Suffolk Police, said: "This is an appalling crime. We can only assume that Mrs Cole was murdered in her own home for a few hundred pounds."

West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust, who employed the pathologist who carried out the original post-mortem examination, said it would be reviewing the matter.



The scrapped 19p stamp, top, and the 41p version



Football fantasy was stamped out

IT WAS to have been the pinnacle of Roy of the Rovers' glittering career. The Manchester Rovers striker would have been the star of a set of stamps to commemorate England winning the Euro 96 Championship.

But Gareth Southgate's penalty miss in the semi-final against Germany meant not only England's exit, but also the scrapping of the stamps. Because no living person other than a member of the Royal Family can appear on a stamp, the honour befell Roy Race of Manchester Rovers, a comic-strip hero for more than 30 years, to capture the occasion.

The first stamp was to show Roy being called up for the tournament. Another would have depicted him scoring Alan Shearer's goal against Switzerland. However, he may yet appear if England win the World Cup next year.

Football, page 25, 28-31

Horlick takes a break to unwind

By Carol Midgley

THE City fund manager Nicola Horlick took her first break yesterday since being suspended by Morgan Grenfell on Tuesday, and spent the day with her three youngest children.

Mrs Horlick, a mother of five, said she had been unable to eat or sleep since starting her whirlwind campaign against the German-owned bank. "I have been a bit overwrought but it's a great way to lose weight."

As she bundled Serena, 6, Rupert, 3, and Antonia, seven months, into the car, she said: "Today I am trying to have a bit of rest, but tomorrow I'll be spending all day at the offices of my lawyer, Herbert Smith." Asked if she regretted the media circus, she said: "No, because I'm trying to get justice done. I believe I should be reinstated or be given proper compensation, but I would like my job back."

She denied that she had ambitions to become a Labour MP, insisting that reports in the Express on Sunday were "rather exaggerated". "I don't belong to any political party and I have expressed no political views," she said. "A lot of my clients are local authority clients, so it would be wrong for me to do so."

Mrs Horlick has been accused of trying to poach staff from Morgan Grenfell for a rival company. Yesterday was the first time she had been seen in public without her trademark red lipstick, string of pearls and black business suit. "The idea that I have loads of labels is ludicrous," Mrs Horlick said.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Lost status, page 46
£500,000 lost, page 48

Backroom boy's low fidelity debut goes straight to No 1

By Caitlin Moran

A RECLUSIVE computer musician last night became only the fourth person to have a debut single enter the charts at No 1, with a record he made in a makeshift studio in his bedroom.

Indian-born Jyoti Mishra was hardly greeting his phenomenal success in traditional pop-star style. Mishra, who recorded his runaway hit *Your Woman - Abort, Retry, Fail* under the name White Town, using a £30 microphone, remained shut away indoors after receiving the news at his mock-Tudor semi-detached house on an estate in Derby and refused to comment.

The success follows that of the Beatles' Anthology series which featured scratchy, ram-

shackle home demos of some of their most popular songs and encouraged public taste to become more attuned to low production values. White Town's hit could hardly be more amateur - Mishra, 28, worked alone with an eight track machine in his bedroom at his parents' home.

He did not originally plan to release the track, but was badgered by his girlfriend into having a handful of copies pressed. With the last of his money, he sent copies to five radio presenters.

Four ignored it, but Radio 1's Mark Radcliffe started playing it on his show every night. Within a month, Mishra had a deal with Chrysalis Records. White Town is

the most successful in a growing list of artists who prefer to keep things cheap.

Since the explosion of dance music in the late Eighties, stars on *Top of the Pops* are less likely to be a hard-touring, hard-drinking gang who have spent thousands of pounds on production; and more likely to be a couple of mates with some fairly cheap computers, who released the record on a small, self-financed budget.

Mishra, who taught himself to play guitar listening to Buddy Holly records, and was rejected by nearly every record company in Britain before getting his music into the charts in his own way, is merely the first of the No 1 bedroom superstars.

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Letter bombs turn British neo-Nazis into terrorists

THE interception of letter bombs destined for targets in Britain marks a dramatic escalation in the tactics used by the extreme right-wing organisation, Combat 18.

The British-based neo-Nazi group is a shadowy alliance of a few hundred members who have previously confined their activities mainly to intimidation, rather than terrorism. Authorities in Denmark, where seven people in their early 30s have been charged with planning an international letter bombing campaign aimed at targets in London, now fear more concerted international hostilities. There is growing evidence that the

British group, which is known to include violent figures, has extended its links with neo-Nazis in Denmark, Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Austria and eastern Europe.

Although Denmark has only a very small neo-Nazi movement, the country's liberal freedom of speech laws have made it a haven for foreign extremists. German neo-Nazis forced to close down printing houses in their own country have moved a few miles across the frontier into Denmark, operating from small towns and villages.

Formed in 1992, Combat 18 has been linked with a number of arson attacks and

■ Combat 18, the extreme right-wing organisation, has been extending its links with similar groups in northern Europe, Stewart Tandler and Roger Boyes report

assaults on opponents. At least 12 of their victims have needed hospital treatment, including two women. In the past two years, members have attempted to take over a highly profitable Nazi music industry, which has led to inter-cine violence.

The number 18 in the organisation's title stands for the first and eighth letters of the

alphabet, the initials of Adolf Hitler. The letter bomb technique is borrowed directly from neo-Nazi groups in Austria, where gangs, sometimes operating from across the border in Germany, have been targeting foreigners, gypsies or liberal politicians. Exact instructions on how to put together a letter bomb, including electronic circuits, the

right dosage of nitroglycerine and the correct size of detonator, have been in circulation for some time among Europe's neo-Nazi groups.

In Britain, supporters launched a newspaper called *Target*. It has been used to identify anti-racist campaigners, left-wing opponents and journalists who have attacked them. Addresses have been published and a number of homes have received hate mail or had bricks thrown at windows. Combat 18 has also used the Internet to make contact with groups in Europe.

Yesterday Monika Akabusi, German-born wife of the former British Olympic runner

Kriss Akabusi, spoke of the problems of a mixed-race marriage. She said racism in her homeland was now intolerable. "We had many more problems when we lived in Germany, anything you can imagine. Marrying someone of a different colour was not the thing a blonde, blue-eyed German should do. We had problems finding anywhere to live and they told us exactly what the reason was."

"In this country when I am with Kriss I don't experience much racism — here he has got a different status because he is so well known — but when I am with our children the true feelings sometimes

come through. My children have been turned away because of their colour."

Mrs Akabusi, who has lived in England for 12 years, said: "It is getting worse in Germany. My family there have told us it is not the time to come to visit because of the racial problems." She said her husband, also 38, had received letters from black people telling him he had let them down by marrying a white woman.

"It works both ways," she said. Derek Redmond, another former British Olympic athlete and the husband of the swimmer Sharron Davies, has spoken in the past of receiving hate mail. "We have

been told there are extremist magazines which have had pictures of Sharron and me with guns to our heads."

One of the most celebrated victims of racism in Germany is the tennis player Boris Becker, who is married to a black woman, Barbara Felber. The couple are considering leaving Germany because they fear they are being targeted by neo-Nazis.

The German postal service has long been alerted to report suspicious packages mailed from Denmark. But no such controls exist on mail that originates in Sweden, from where the letter bombs for Britain were to be posted.

Tolkien wins title Lord of the Books by popular acclaim

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT AND ERICA WAGNER, LITERARY EDITOR

THE epic fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, has been voted the Book of the Century by the buying public. Many critically acclaimed names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make it into the top 100 list selected by the 25,000 voters.

George Orwell's dystopian 1984 and his political satire *Animal Farm* reached second and third places respectively, followed by James Joyce's *Ulysses*, though many of those who voted for this dense novel may not actually have read it.

More than 5,000 titles were nominated in a national survey conducted in the autumn by *Waterstone's*, the booksellers, and Channel 4's *Book Choice* programme. The public was invited to suggest up to five books.

Auberon Waugh, editor of *The Literary Review*, expressed disbelief at Tolkien's win. "It's a little bit suspicious. It's like Mr Major coming out as the most popular man," he said. He suggested that the author's fans might have orchestrated a campaign, a charge rejected by Martin Grossel, university lecturer in chemistry and leading light of Oxford's Tolkien Society. Tol-



Tolkien: wrote popular epic of good and evil

and J.B. Priestley were among many who had been overlooked, she added.

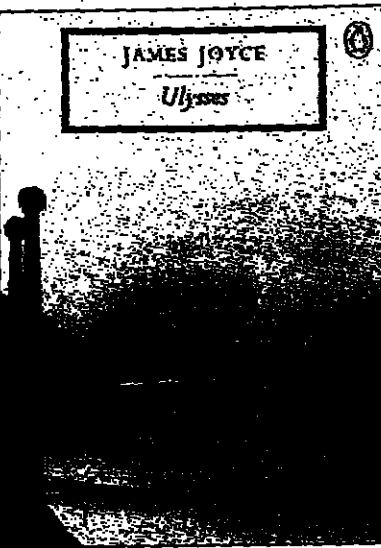
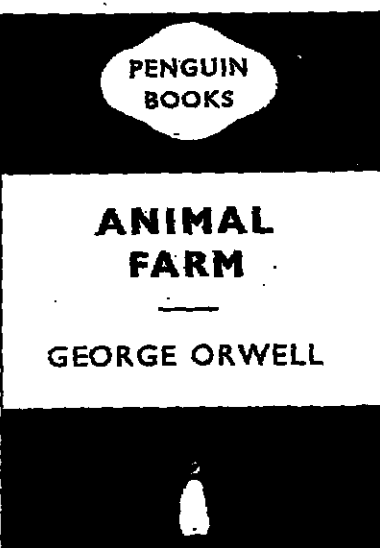
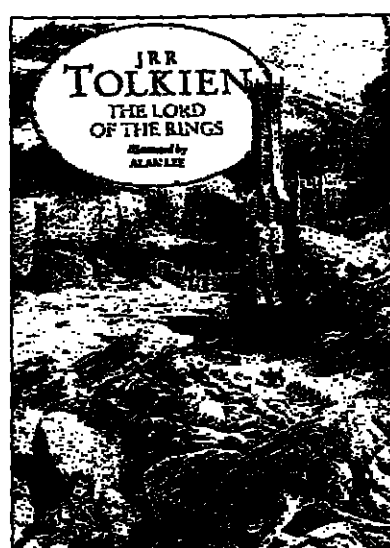
While Kingsley Amis made the list with *Lucky Jim*, his son Martin was omitted. Some bestselling authors such as Jeffrey Archer did not make it.

Ross Shimmion, chief executive of the Library Association, said: "It seems to me a very sound selection. It's quite interesting that it's very different from the public lending rights figures."

Jung Chang's *Wild Swans*, an account of three generations of Chinese women surviving the nationalist and communist regimes, was the highest non-fiction entry at No 11. It was one of only 13 books on the list by women.

Alan Giles, managing director of *Waterstone's*, said: "Memories fade and therefore there's an over-representation of more recent writing. If we were to conduct the survey again in ten years, I wonder how many of those would still be on the list."

The Lord of the Rings is a tale of good and evil, the story of Frodo the Hobbit's search to return the Ring of Power to its source. First published in 1954, it achieved cult status in the Sixties and has remained in print ever since. On



Winners: *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *Ulysses* by James Joyce and *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller

Booktrack's list of the top 5,000 bestsellers in Britain. *The Lord of the Rings* currently stands at No 537, selling 155 copies a week. Its author, born in 1892, was Merton Professor of English Language and Literature at Oxford, and an authority on Anglo-Saxon literature. It is perhaps the escapism which its mythology offers that has provided its enduring appeal, the same escapism that has kept Gene Roddenberry's *Star Trek* going for decades.

Malcolm Bradbury, Professor Emeritus of American Literature at the University of East Anglia, said that, while he would not consider it a great work of literature, he was not surprised at its triumph. "It has a very special cultural value," he said. "It's a book that crosses the magic line between childhood and adulthood."

Book Choice will focus on the survey in its programme tonight at 7.55pm.

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE BOOKS		
1 <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> J.R.R. Tolkien	36 <i>Beloved</i> Toni Morrison	72 <i>The Power and the Glory</i> Graham Greene
2 <i>1984</i> George Orwell	37 <i>Poison</i> A.S. Byatt	73 <i>The Stand</i> Stephen King
3 <i>Animal Farm</i> George Orwell	38 <i>Heart of Darkness</i> Joseph Conrad	74 <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> Erich Maria Remarque
4 <i>Ulysses</i> James Joyce	39 <i>Passage to India</i> E.M. Forster	75 <i>Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha</i> Roddy Doyle
5 <i>Catch-22</i> Joseph Heller	40 <i>Waterhouse</i> Richard Adams	76 <i>Matilda</i> Roald Dahl
6 <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> J.D. Salinger	41 <i>Sophie's World</i> Jostein Gaarder	77 <i>American Psycho</i> Bret Easton Ellis
7 <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> Harper Lee	42 <i>The Name of the Rose</i> Umberto Eco	78 <i>Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas</i> Hunter S. Thompson
8 <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> Gabriel Garcia Marquez	43 <i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i> Gabriel Garcia Marquez	79 <i>A Brief History of Time</i> Stephen Hawking
9 <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> John Steinbeck	44 <i>Rebecca</i> Daphne du Maurier	80 <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> Roald Dahl
10 <i>Trainspotting</i> Irvine Welsh	45 <i>The Remains of the Day</i> Kazuo Ishiguro	81 <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i> D.H. Lawrence
11 <i>Wild Swans</i> Jung Chang	46 <i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> Milan Kundera	82 <i>The Bonfire of the Vanities</i> Tom Wolfe
12 <i>The Great Gatsby</i> F. Scott Fitzgerald	47 <i>Birdsong</i> Sebastian Faulks	83 <i>The Complete Cookery Course</i> Delia Smith
13 <i>Lord of the Flies</i> William Golding	48 <i>Howards End</i> E.M. Forster	84 <i>An Evil Cradling</i> Brian Keenan
14 <i>On the Road</i> Jack Kerouac	49 <i>Brideshead Revisited</i> Evelyn Waugh	85 <i>The Rainbow</i> D.H. Lawrence
15 <i>Brave New World</i> Aldous Huxley	50 <i>Suitable Boy</i> Vikram Seth	86 <i>Down and out in Paris and London</i> George Orwell
16 <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> Kenneth Grahame	51 <i>Dune</i> Frank Herbert	87 <i>2001 - A Space Odyssey</i> Arthur C. Clarke
17 <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> A.A. Milne	52 <i>Prayer for Owen Meany</i> John Irving	88 <i>The Tin Drum</i> Günther Grass
18 <i>The Color Purple</i> Alice Walker	53 <i>Primo and Patric</i> Suskind	89 <i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i> Alexander Solzhenitsyn
19 <i>The Hobbit</i> J.R.R. Tolkien	54 <i>Doctor Zhivago</i> Boris Pasternak	90 <i>Long Walk to Freedom</i> Nelson Mandela
20 <i>The Outsider</i> Albert Camus	55 <i>The Gormenghast Trilogy</i> Mervyn Peake	91 <i>The Selfish Gene</i> Richard Dawkins
21 <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> C.S. Lewis	56 <i>Cider with Rosie</i> Laurie Lee	92 <i>Jurassic Park</i> Michael Crichton
22 <i>The Trial</i> Franz Kafka	57 <i>The Bell Jar</i> Sylvia Plath	93 <i>The Alexandria Quartet</i> Lawrence Durrell
23 <i>Game with the Wind</i> Margaret Mitchell	58 <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Margaret Atwood	94 <i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> Alan Paton
24 <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> Douglas Adams	59 <i>Testament of Youth</i> Vera Brittain	95 <i>High Fidelity</i> Nick Hornby
25 <i>Midnight's Children</i> Salman Rushdie	60 <i>The Magus</i> John Fowles	96 <i>The Vanishing Act</i> Doyle
26 <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	61 <i>Brighton Rock</i> Graham Greene	97 <i>The BFG</i> Roald Dahl
27 <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> Anthony Burgess	62 <i>The Ragged Dicks</i> Phil Wit	98 <i>Earthly Powers</i> Anthony Burgess
28 <i>Sons and Lovers</i> D.S. Lawrence	63 <i>The Master and Margarita</i> Mikhail Bulgakov	99 <i>Claudius</i> Robert Graves
29 <i>To the Lighthouse</i> Virginia Woolf	64 <i>Tales of the City</i> Armistead Mauphi	100 <i>The Horse Whisperer</i> Nicholas Evans
30 <i>If This is a Man</i> Primo Levi	65 <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i> John Fowles	
31 <i>Lolita</i> Vladimir Nabokov	66 <i>Captain Corcoran's Maudlin</i> Louis de Bernieres	
32 <i>The Wasp Factory</i> Iain Banks	67 <i>Slaughterhouse 5</i> Kurt Vonnegut	
33 <i>Remembrance of Things Past</i> Marcel Proust	68 <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i> Robert M. Pirsig	
34 <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> Roald Dahl	69 <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i> Robert M. Pirsig	
35 <i>Of Mice and Men</i> John Steinbeck	70 <i>Lucky Jim</i> Kingsley Amis	
	71 <i>Stephen King</i>	

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Quick snip gives new hope to the infertile

By JEREMY LAURANCE

INFERTILE men have been given new hope of fathering children by a ten-minute operation developed at a London clinic. The technique, which could help thousands with zero sperm counts, involves removing a tiny piece of tissue from the testis. The operation can be done under local anaesthetic quicker than a vasectomy.

Once removed, the tissue is divided into five imm sections which are individually frozen. The sections can then be unfrozen as required and individual sperm extracted.

The process, pioneered in Germany and developed at the Churchill Clinic in London, is simpler than the existing technique, which uses microsurgery to remove sperm from the testes and involves an operation of between two and four hours under general anaesthetic.

Rajat Goswami, director of the inventory fertilisation unit at the Churchill Clinic said that testicular tissue had been taken from 16 men, of whom 14 had been found to have live active sperm. Six had IVF treatment with their wives, involving injecting the sperm directly into the egg. Two of the women became pregnant.

The method was suitable only for use in conjunction with the injection method of IVF known as intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) because the number of sperm retrieved was too small for normal IVF.

About 20,000 couples a year undergo IVF, which costs between £800 and £2,000 per cycle of treatment.

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From crown to shroud, a royal inventory of 100,000 items is rescued from oblivion

Richly detailed list shows Henry VIII as wealthiest monarch

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

HENRY VIII has been branded as the original shopaholic after the first study of a long-forgotten inventory of the 100,000 possessions he left behind. He is also revealed to have been the richest monarch in English history.

Henry had an income of £300,000 a year, when the next wealthiest people in the land received £6,000 a year and the average daily wage was 2½ pence. The contents of his palaces were worth a similar sum to his income, as were his navy and forts and his military stores.

But perhaps even more remarkable than the catalogue of opulence is the obsessive chronicling of Henry's ordinary possessions. Clusters for the royal toilet, chamber pots, bed ornaments, musical and scientific instruments, clocks, even stacks of used tennis balls and a cushion stick, are solemnly included. Two volumes of the



Starkey, five-year task

inventory were bought by the Society of Antiquaries in 1792 with the intention of publishing and the other two are in the British Library.

The task of transcribing all four volumes of the elaborate script and indexing 18,000 entries, covering more than 100,000 items, has now been completed on computer by a team of scholars led by Dr David Starkey of the London School of Economics. The project, which has taken five

years, has been finished to coincide with the 450th anniversary this month of Henry's death.

Dr Starkey said: "On the one hand it shows a mad sense of order and on the other the sheer prodigious quantity of Henry's possessions. He was the original shopaholic. Everything was bought, and bought in quantity, and everything was bought to be used to give the impression of wealth."

All that the king owned when he died in 1547 was fastidiously listed on the finest linen paper by an army of scribes. As he was being succeeded by a minor, Edward VI, it was decided to assess the exact state of the royal coffers. Nothing that was Henry's, from his crown to the bandages in which he wrapped his ulcerated legs, has been missed.

The document, which took Tudor officials three years to compile and which lay neglected for more than four centuries, is expected to revolutionise the study of the period and to give a boost to the market for 16th century artefacts.

Where Henry was once criticised for squandering his income, the new research claims his hoarding endowed the Tudor and Stuart dynasties. His riches make those of modern monarchs look distinctly modest. The 18,000 entries dwarf the 5,000 of which Charles I's inventory consists.

The list starts where one might expect: "I item: the kinges crowne of golde". Then



Henry holding court with his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, depicted by the Victorian artist Sir John Gilbert

the reader is led through a palace by palace, tour of Henry's jewels, plate, tapestries, cannon, armour, even horses and his entire navy.

"It is staggering wealth," Dr Starkey said. "The only other king to come even close was Richard III. It was unbelievable acquisitiveness with the purpose of displaying an air of magnificence to convince enemies that England was a country to be reckoned with."

"Each time he had a great ceremony, for example a reception for a major ambassador, he would get the Tudor equivalent of interior designers in and redesign the palace with his treasures. Fashions changed very quickly and Henry was very fashion-conscious."

Some of Henry's stockpiling came from the dissolution of the monasteries but much more came from the exercise he destroyed. "A lot came from Cardinal Wolsey, the Duke of Buckingham, the Duke of Norfolk and others. It really must have been like going to bed with ghosts, all the possessions of the people whose heads he had cut off," Dr Starkey said.

"It is generally believed that Henry squandered his wealth. But what we now realise is that what he left was a major achievement. He left an endowment to the monarchy which lasted 100 years."

Browsing through the inventory one comes across references to such glories as "two olde rotten trussing sheets full of holes" and "one

sett of chesemen of woode in a box of wood foure of theym being broken".

Many of the items, including Henry's crown, have disappeared. The collar Henry is wearing in Holbein's cartoon in the National Portrait Gallery has also vanished. But scholars are delighted to have a full description: "Item: a collar set with IX large balaces [rubies] the Xth balace standing in the top of the Kinges crowne made against the coronacion with X frier knottes in every knott XVI perles."

The inventory presents the prospect of "finding" Henry's possessions. Already a small gold spaul in the Victoria and Albert Museum, previously believed to be a fastening for a costume, is listed as a

"whistell for the tete and ears" — a pick for the royal teeth and ears.

Dr Starkey said: "I expect there will be a flood of re-identifications and the value of 16th century items are going to be transformed. Their value could soar by three times."

Even the burial apparel in which the king was wrapped was deemed too valuable to be allowed to rot with him. The robes were removed and later dutifully recorded by the inventory men.

An exhibition on the inventory, featuring one of the four volumes, will open at the National Portrait Gallery on January 28, the anniversary of Henry's death.

Leading article, page 21

No sweet ending for yachting survivor

By A STAFF REPORTER

CHOCOLATE companies are refusing to be associated with Tony Bullimore and the "little bit of chocolate" that helped him to survive for four days in the Southern Ocean — unless it can be proved that their product was truly the one that sustained him.

Agents for the rescued yachtsman had approached companies saying that, for £20,000, Mr Bullimore, 38, would "remember" their product as the one he used.

Mars said: "We're delighted he's been rescued, but he should tell the truth. If that includes a Mars bar, fine, but what's good for us is good for the industry and if he ate Cadbury's Dairy Milk we want him to say that."

Hilary Parsons, of Nestlé, agreed that any deal had to feature the genuine article. Masters International, an agency representing sports people, had approached Nestlé mentioning that Drifter and KitKat were aboard the yacht, but "the proposal was not appealing, especially when they began to mention other companies". She added: "It would have been a nice line for Drifter had it been the brand that was eaten, but you've got to be truthful on these occasions. We're not in contact with them now."

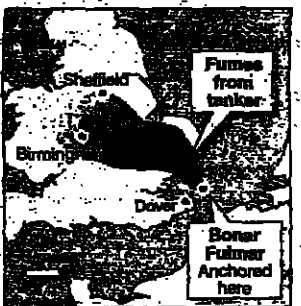
Tony Bilborough, of Cadbury, also acknowledged that Masters International had approached his company, which had originally been interested, but only if one of its products had genuinely been used by Mr Bullimore. "It's a credibility issue," he said. "We didn't want to just buy his association. It's now been a few days since we heard from them and we're not really interested any more."

Whiff of the sea stinks out Middle England

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

METEOROLOGISTS were baffled yesterday by the source of strange smells wafting across the middle of Britain. They eventually concluded that unusual weather conditions were funneling petrol fumes more than 200 miles from the spot in the English Channel where two tankers had collided.

Police in Cheshire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands received complaints from hundreds of members of the public who said they could smell petrol fumes. Some said that the



odour was of aviation fuel.

It seems the culprit was the *Bona Fulmar*, a tanker that had been leaking unleaded petrol after being in a collision with the Mexican chemical tanker *Teodilo* in fog on Saturday night. It had been anchored 31 miles northeast of

Dover. No one was injured. Dover Coastguard said the spillage would not reach the English coast, as the petrol would evaporate naturally. "There is no danger to marine wildlife or to beaches, and the danger of explosion has reduced dramatically."

Work continued yesterday on cleaning up thousands of tons of petrol which split into the sea when the hull and tank of the 47,000-ton *Bona Fulmar* were ruptured. Salvage experts and rescue workers were pumping inert gas into the vessel's damaged tank to limit the risk of thousands of tons of petrol exploding near the coast.

Nun flees town she tried to help

By JOEL WOLCHOVER

A NUN has been forced to leave the deprived community she tried to help after her home was burgled 35 times.

Sister Josefa Norris, 53, is leaving Leigh, Greater Manchester, eight years after receiving permission from the Vatican to live there as a community worker. She set up a workshop to take young people off the streets and a library scheme for adults.

Raiders recently stole her computer, containing 14 years' academic research on poverty and illiteracy. After suffering 18 burglaries in as many months, she had moved, only to be burgled again. The premises of a business she set up to employ local youths have been smashed and her car has been broken into many times. "Burglars think that because I'm well-spoken I must be wealthy," she said. "They see me as a frail old woman living alone in a house with rich pickings. In fact, I survive on invalidity benefit."

Sister Josefa, who pities the thieves, saying they may be driven to crime by the cost of drug habits, is moving to Sheffield. She will continue to pray for the people of Leigh.

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BALLOT '97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

1: Education

Where the fiercest battle for votes will be fought

AT LAST October's Labour Party conference, Tony Blair said he had three priorities for government: education, education and education. Glimpicking aside, the Labour leader knew that he was addressing one of the prime concerns of voters. In a MORI poll, 51 per cent of those asked said that education would be very important in deciding their vote. This ranks it second only to health.

When pollsters ask which party has the best health policies, respondents give Labour a six to one lead over the Tories. But education is a slightly different matter.

Although Labour's policies on education are preferred to those of the Tories and the Liberal Democrats, their lead is smaller than on health — and shrinking. In 1995, of voters who said that education was very important to them, 53 per cent

favoured Labour's policies, with 13 per cent for the Tories and 9 per cent for the Lib Dems. By 1996, Labour's score had fallen to 46 per cent and the Conservatives had risen to 15 per cent. The gap is still wide, but the Tories believe that they can make political capital out of their differences with Labour.

Although Labour opposed almost every Tory reform to education — such as the introduction of tests, league tables and grant-maintained schools — new Labour accepts virtually all of them. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, prides himself on taking the side of parents, rather than teachers, unlike his predecessor, Ann Taylor.

Mr Blunkett is tough on standards, homework, discipline and bad teaching, and first came up with some of the ideas that his

counterpart, Gillian Shephard, has since adopted. But on two issues there is a chasm between them: selection and assisted places.

At the 1995 Labour Party conference, Mr Blunkett managed to persuade a resolute audience to accept that grant-maintained schools would stay, albeit renamed "foundation" schools. But the quid pro quo was a promise to end selection. Since then, the party has rowed back a little: the 161 existing grammar schools would be turned into comprehensives only if enough local parents signed a petition calling for a ballot and then voted against selection. Remaining schools, though, would be allowed to select only a small proportion of children on grounds of aptitude for subjects such as music. Labour would repeal the Bill currently going through Parliament which

allows grant-maintained schools to select up to 50 per cent of pupils, and others up to 15 per cent.

The Tories will capitalise in the election campaign on Labour and Lib Dem opposition to selection. Their manifesto is likely to include plans for yet more selection and greater independence from local councils for schools. Both opposition parties are also against the latter, between them they control most education authorities.

The Tories say that grammar schools give academic children a better chance of success. Labour claims that selection is fine for those children who win places in good schools, but it condemns the rest to a second-class education, and it labels children as "failures"

from the age of 11. The party would rather see setting by ability in comprehensives.

Public opinion on selection is a little ambiguous. While the most recent poll, by Harris, found 54 per cent in favour of a return to grammar schools and the 11-plus, with 37 per cent against, the enthusiasm for selection was greatest among those aged over 45. The 35 to 44-year-old age group, who are most likely to have children of secondary school age, opposed selection by a small margin.

Assisted places, which give bright children from poor families the chance to go to private schools, are also politically contentious. The Tories are extending them to prep schools, financed by a penny of the basic rate of income tax, if necessary. Labour would spend on education any money it saved by getting the unemployed back to

work, but those savings could take years to materialise.

One big difference remains, but it is a human one. If Labour wins, all its Cabinet ministers with children will have sent them to state schools, and most will have been frustrated by the experience. Yet today's Conservative Cabinet is dominated by parents of privately educated children.

This cannot help but affect politicians' thinking. As George Walden, a former Tory Education Minister once said, if his colleagues' children were at state schools, "our breakfast tables would be educational battlegrounds, as our wives described in lugubrious detail the shortcomings of state schools and insisted we do something about them".

Leading article and Letters, page 21

Tories may miss out on the fruits of reform

MOST of what the Conservatives have done to reform education in the past 17 years has been with the aim of raising standards. Since 1988 there has been an education Bill going through Parliament virtually every year. Almost all of the reforms now have cross-party support and some are being copied abroad.

The percentage of pupils gaining good qualifications has risen sharply. Yet standards of literacy and numeracy have barely changed since 1979. Indeed, many believe that basic educational standards have actually fallen.

The evidence for this is mainly anecdotal: secondary school head teachers saying that their new 11-year-olds are worse at reading, or physics dons complaining about the mathematics skills of undergraduates. There is a tendency for each generation to believe that subsequent ones are worse educated. The truth is as likely to be that they are educated differently.

Maths and science are good test cases: they are the easiest subjects in which to make international comparisons. In the early 1980s there was concern that, while schoolchildren understood the basic rules of maths, they were bad at applying them to real-world problems. The curriculum was changed to incorporate more applied work, such as statistics and probability. The result is that English children now tend to perform better in these areas. But they are worse at number work, by which an older generation is more likely to judge them.

There is, however, some evidence of slippage relative to other countries. The latest international maths and science study found that English 13-year-olds scored above the international average for data representation, analysis and probability, but below the

average for number work, geometry, algebra, measurement and proportionality. Overall, they dropped from three points above the mean in 1990 to nearly three points below in 1995, ranking 19th out of 27 countries. Our best mathematicians are among the highest scorers, but lower-ability students tend to perform more poorly than in other countries, dragging the average down. This wide discrepancy between the best and the worst seems to be a characteristic of state education in Britain.

Last week's international numeracy study of 16 to 60-year-olds put Britain at the bottom of the league of seven developed countries, lagging well behind Australia in sixth place. The age group that had most recently left school did even worse than its elders.

Science shows a more cheering picture than maths. Here the English were sixth out of 27 in the international maths and science study, scoring 6 per cent better than average compared with 2 per cent in 1990. The Government's Skills Audit, published recently, found that new British recruits to the workforce scored highly on information technology skills, just behind Germany and Japan, but ahead of Singapore, America and France.

Literacy is hard to compare internationally, but easier to compare over time. The National Foundation for Educational Research has found that reading standards among 10 to 11-year-olds and 15 to 16-year-olds have changed little since 1945. Among six to eight-year-olds, though, standards fell slightly in the late 1980s. For writing there was no overall change in the 1980s. But even if standards are



Seven-year-olds taking national curriculum tests, which so far have had a negligible effect on raising standards

not falling, with the growing competitive challenge, Britain needs to be improving, not just standing still. The Skills Audit found this country performing badly in most areas compared with Singapore, France and Germany, generally at the bottom of the table with America. Britain's main achievement is to send a high proportion of pupils to university: one in nine in 1979. But the "tail" of the school system is still relatively poorly qualified.

Since the late 1980s the Government has introduced a raft of measures, including the national curriculum, testing at seven, 11 and 14, league tables, opt-out schools, and reforms of teacher training. Why have these not made more of a difference?

The educational establishment has shown resistance to change, from the Department for Education down to teachers in individual schools. People such as Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, who call for a return to more effective methods of teaching, are vilified by pro-

gressive, child-centred educationists. The latter's ideology has prevailed at teacher-training colleges.

The culture is changing, though. Gradually teachers and schools are coming round to the need for more rigour and for higher expectations. The information provided to parents by league tables has put more pressure on schools to succeed academically.

There has, after all, been a substantial rise in the number of GCSE and A-level passes. For instance, in 1988-89, 28.7 per cent of 16-year-olds gained GCSE passes at grades A to C in English, maths and another subject. By 1994-95, the figure had risen to 35.2 per cent. Similarly, more pupils stay on to do A levels and the pass rate has risen from 68 per cent in 1980 to 86 per cent.

Does this mean that students are better educated and working harder? Or that the exams have become easier? The evidence is mixed. The fact that the pass rate for Scottish Highers (the equivalent of A levels) rose by only 4 cent in the same period might

suggest an element of grade inflation in England and Wales, with markers becoming more lenient or exam papers becoming less challenging. A comparison of English language O levels in 1980 with GCSEs in 1993 and 1994 found that pupils who were awarded C grades at GCSE would probably have been graded D or E by O-level examiners. Yet a more recent study of A levels by Ofsted, the inspection body, and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, found little evidence of easier exams or of more lenient marking. It was, however, hampered by a shortage of answer papers from earlier years.

Degree inflation is almost certainly a problem. The much higher numbers of students entering higher education ought to suggest a decline in the percentage winning firsts or upper seconds. Instead there has been a big rise. Nearly 60 per cent were awarded one of the top two grades in 1993, compared with just over 40 per cent in 1973.

At GCSE and A level,

though, some of the improvement may be down to teachers being more focused on getting good results. Pupils may be better motivated, too: keener on winning a university place and more aware of the importance of qualifications in the job market.

The politicians' task of improving standards is made harder by the slipperiness of central control and the time that it takes to make any difference. As Kenneth Clarke once said, the Education Secretary is not in charge of a single school. Levers can be pulled from the centre, but by the time their effect is felt at the periphery, the influence may be negligible.

Worst of all for politicians used to working on an electoral cycle, any improvement from their policies may not be seen for a generation. Although an expert outsider would probably declare the Tory legacy of reform to have been broadly sensible, if Labour wins the election, it could be Tony Blair who reaps the political rewards of Conservative policies.

GILLIAN SHEPHARD
Age: 56
Education: North Walsham High School for Girls (grammar); St Hilda's College, Oxford (MA in modern languages)
Experience: education officer, schools inspector, lecturer, chairman of Norfolk County Council education committee, Education Secretary since 1994
Children: Two stepchildren educated at state schools
Politics: Major loyalist and friend; pragmatic and un-ideological; appointed to restore calm after the stormy years of John Patten; criticised by the Right, who



would like her to be more radical.
Performance: Witty in private, steady in public. Solid but uninspiring speaker

DAVID BLUNKETT
Age: 49
Education: Royal Normal College for the Blind, Shrewsbury, followed by night school and day release. Degree in politics, Sheffield University
Experience: lecturer, leader Sheffield City Council Shadow Education Secretary since 1994
Children: three at local comprehensive
Politics: has moved from the Left to the Centre; a social conservative who educated himself. Sees education as an instrument of social justice. Hugely popular in the party, less so with



teaching unions. Trusted by Blair.
Performance: tenacious and determined. Competent in the Commons

Read my lips — no selection by exam or interview under a Labour government
David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary
If parents want grammar schools in every town — so do I, and they shall have them
John Major
Insufficient resources, now threaten the provision of education in the state school sector
Draft memo prepared for Gillian Shephard for submission to Cabinet
I want a state education system in Britain so good, so attractive, that the parents choose to put behind the educational apartheid of the past, private and state
Tony Blair

If education's a passion for Labour, it's a passion that dare not speak its results
John Major
There should be zero tolerance of failure in Britain's schools
Tony Blair
I approve of this rise in educational consumerism
Gillian Shephard
With a Labour government, education will have greater status than ever before... Education should be a leading office of state, comparable to the other departments which have traditionally had that title
Tony Blair
Good schools can be a lifeline out of poverty, the ladder to a whole new life
John Major

CONSERVATIVES

- Nursery: vouchers for all four-year-olds whose parents want them, extended nationwide from April.
- Primary: assessment on entry for all five-year-olds so effectiveness of school can be better measured. League tables of all primaries to be published for the first time this year. Literacy and numeracy centres being set up to disseminate best ways to teach the basics. Manifesto may include pledge to slim down national curriculum for greater emphasis on three Rs.
- Secondary: selection to be increased. Make it easier for schools to become grammars and for comprehensives to have "grammar streams". Grant-maintained schools will be able to select up to half their pupils by ability without asking permission. Manifesto will probably bring in even more selection and greater independence for schools from local education authorities (LEAs). There may be takeovers of "failing" LEAs and a reduction in the powers of all LEAs. A levels more rigorous and exam boards reduced.
- Further: learning credits, extending entitlement to education or training to the age of 21, will help colleges to compete with school sixth-forms. Expansion to continue.
- Higher: kicked into touch by setting up National Commission on Higher Education, chaired by Sir Ron Dearing. Will report a few months after election. Greater concentration of university research.
- Adult: refresher courses to improve basic skills. Career Development Loans to be promoted for vocational training.
- Teachers: Training Agency to devise new curriculum for initial teacher training. Qualification for head teachers.
- Private: Assisted Places Scheme being extended to prep schools.

LABOUR

- Nursery: mixture of state and private provision for all four-year-olds whose parents want it. Existing vouchers to be honoured. Future ones scrapped. Childcare to be added to nursery education.
- Primary: assessment on entry. More focus on three Rs. Classes no more than 30 for first three years. Encourage phonics in reading and whole-class teaching for maths. Encourage setting by ability within classes. All 11-year-olds to reach chronological reading age. At least 30 minutes' homework a night for 7 to 11s. Summer literacy camps.
- Secondary: five GCSEs at grade A to C as target for all. Aim for 80 per cent to stay on after 16. Grant-maintained schools to be renamed "foundation" schools. Local ballots, if parents want, on existing grammars. Setting by ability in and acceleration for brightest. Specialisation by schools encouraged. At least 90 minutes of homework a night. Homework centres set up. A levels kept, but a mix of academic and vocational encouraged. Failing schools to be taken over by successful neighbouring head.
- Further: at least six hours a week skills education for 16 and 17-year-olds in work.
- Higher: replace mix of grants, loans and parental contributions with single contribution repaid over 20 years through national insurance. Check degree standards.
- Adult: individual learning accounts to help adults to educate themselves. "University for Industry" on Internet.
- Teachers: should be easier to sack bad ones. Best become Advanced Skills Teachers on higher pay. Set up General Teaching Council. Training to be less ideological.
- Private: no VAT on fees. Must contribute to community to retain charitable status. Phase out assisted places.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- Nursery: for all three and four-year-olds. Early years to have first claim on extra £2 billion for education. Working or in-training parents get tax relief on childcare.
- Primary: reception classes no bigger than 30 — target for all classes. national curriculum slimmed and replaced. Modern languages "where practicable". Tests replaced by Record of Achievement — children to be entered for tests when ready. £500 million for repairs to primary and secondary schools.
- Secondary: return grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges to "light-touch" local education authorities (LEAs). Opposed to selection. Let communities decide on existing grammars. Increase independence of schools within LEAs. Special needs include very able children. GCSE and A levels replaced by National Certificates, with academic and vocational qualifications.
- Further: school-to-work and apprenticeship programmes encouraged. At least two days a week off-job training or education for 16 to 19-year-olds in work. All without jobs trained by local Tecs.
- Higher: all fees paid. Maintenance loans could be paid back through national insurance.
- Adult: learning accounts to pay for more education and training.
- Teachers: General Teaching Council to control entry and practice. More in-service training. Salary structure based on achievement and responsibility. Poor teachers retrained or dismissed.
- Private: charitable status extended to state schools. No VAT on fees. Assisted places phased out, but LEA bursaries for special needs or talents.



Shake-up in international clubland will raise crop of resentful outsiders

When the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet empire imploded, outfits such as the European Union, Nato and the United Nations that made up the "West" sailed serenely on as if the new era would require only cosmetic adjustments to the way they had done business.

The EU kept crawling towards the federal dream defined by its founding fathers of the 1950s. Nato suffered a passing identity crisis, but recovered its nerve. The UN found a new peacekeeping role, but lost a lot of respect. The world had turned upside



down, but the institutional machinery just kept turning. The real earthquake occurs this year: the members of the alphabet-soup organisations will be shaken up like letters

in a game of Scrabble. For the first time in decades and on a scale never seen before, the networks which make — but sometimes only enforce — the rules of international conduct will draw fresh lines across the map of Europe. A new age of invidious distinctions is dawning.

In July a Nato summit will probably "invite" three or four Central European states to join the alliance, leaving a queue of disgruntled outsiders outside the door. "Flexibility" clauses inserted in a new Maastricht treaty, under discussion in Brussels today, would accelerate the EU's

division into separate clubs. By the middle of this year, the split between exactly which countries will be inside and outside the single currency will be stark.

Because money now drives integration, Western Europe reaches a parting of the ways. If the euro gets off the ground, nothing will matter much to those aboard the new money except keeping it airborne. The needs of the new currency zone will take precedence over everything else, including over the rest of the EU. Stress levels are

rising. EU governments resent American pressure to promise early membership to Baltic states such as Estonia, to console them for their inevitable exclusion from Nato.

Will Greece, located at the most volatile corner of Europe, feel relaxed when shut out of monetary union? How will the Italian electorate, which watched its political class collapse once already this decade, find life on the outside?

New cracks in old patterns, however, can release opportunities. Assume that Britain stays out of the single currency.

If the single-currency states can get shot of their difficult fellow members, might the G7 (Group of Seven) leading industrial powers eventually become a G3 consisting of North America, the Euro-zone and Japan? Would Britain be asked to give up its seat on the UN Security Council when France and Germany share a joint EU place? How much would it matter? If a European currency zone became a political and defence union without Britain, would we stop paying for soldiers to serve in the Gulf and Bosnia-Herzegovina? Needless to

say, no politician has yet found language to debate such speculations. In particular, politicians of the 1990s find it hard to free themselves of the understandable Cold War habit of thinking that a serious country must be a member of any and every international club. The next political generation will have to take a hard-headed look at the benefits and costs of each membership on offer.

The long-running Bosnia crisis tested the EU, UN and Nato almost to destruction: the Dayton peace deal was bro-

kered by five governments meeting under the auspices of no institution at all.

Politicians such as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will talk a lot in the next 12 months about the all-embracing unity of the EU family and of extending it to Central Europe. It is one of the bizarre ironies of history that a German leader, heading the nation which has so compulsively collected club memberships since the war, is pressing changes which may fracture more than they bind.

GEORGE BROCK

Staff of troubled Paris bank hold executives hostage

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WORKERS at the Paris headquarters of Crédit Foncier held senior executives hostage for a third day yesterday in a protest over government plans to shut down the loss-making bank.

About 500 workers occupied the ornate 19th-century building on the Rue des Capucines on Friday and prevented Jérôme Meysonnier, the bank's state-appointed governor, from leaving. Four other officials were also being held by the demonstrators.

Crédit Foncier, a venerable 145-year-old property lender that was once the second largest issuer of bonds after the State, had to be bailed out by the Government last year after sustaining huge losses.

Plans to sell off the bank's core businesses to Crédit Immobilier, the property credit group, and then dismantle what remains have prompted anger among employees who fear the loss of at least 900 jobs from the bank's workforce of 3,300.

Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, broke off a tour of western France on Saturday to hold talks with the protesters, which ended in stalemate. "We are disappointed. We had been waiting for a sign that the Government was willing to change its mind about

dismantling the bank," Michel Lamy, a union leader, said.

The demonstrators pledged to continue the occupation indefinitely and said the governor and other captives would not be released until the plan to break up the company was formally shelved.

M Meysonnier appeared relaxed and comfortable yesterday despite spending three days as a prisoner in his own bank. "The night went well. Everyone was on their best behaviour," he said. Although Crédit Foncier is technically a

private institution, the Government controls senior appointments at the bank because of its role in issuing subsidised loans. In 1995 the bank lost Fr10.8 billion (£1.3 billion), and last year the Government stepped in with a rescue package to stave off collapse.

M Arthuis criticised the workers' protest, describing the detention of bank officials as "a form of brutality which prevents us from moving forward". He said that, unless another buyer for the ailing bank came forward, the existing plan to hive off the housing loans business and wind up the rest was the only available option.

Resurrecting Crédit Foncier would cost French taxpayers up to Fr5 billion, M Arthuis said. The Government said a bank collapse would wreak havoc in financial markets.

"If we don't get what we want, we are ready to sit here for as long as it takes," Michel Deswert, another union official, said. Delegations of Crédit Foncier workers travelled to Paris from branches around the country to join the protest. Union leaders said relay teams of "squatters" would go into action if the occupation was extended through this week.



Meysonnier: governor a captive in own bank



A three-year-old boy, shipwrecked in a cave after a sight-seeing boat sank in heavy seas off Spain's Canary island of La Palma, is carried to safety by a rescuer. Two German tourists died when a strong swell smashed the leisure boat against rocks on Friday

Shipwreck boy is saved

night in the popular tourist spot of Cueva Bonita cave, in the northeast of the island. The dead were named as Hermann Planch, 64, and Beate Silta Sauppe, 52. Their bodies were recovered yesterday.

The rescue group that went to the aid of the survivors — five Germans, one Swiss and one Spanish crew member — were also trapped on a small beach inside the cave overnight, a

spokesman from the Civil Guard in Tenerife said. They found shelter in a cave. All those trapped were recovered when the rescue operation resumed on Saturday morning. One German tourist broke a number of ribs, according to police. (AP/Reuters)

Austrians surprised by exit of Vranitzky

BY ROGER BOYES

FRANZ VRANITZKY, the Austrian Chancellor, has resigned and offered the job to Viktor Klima, his Finance Minister. The move at the weekend took the country by surprise and exposed the hidden crisis that has been bubbling below the surface of Austrian politics since it joined the European Union in 1995.

Herr Vranitzky, 59, claimed yesterday that he simply wanted to step aside for younger talent after 10½ years at the helm of the Social Democratic coalition. He denied that he wanted to run for President or seek a European Commissioner's job. Fatigue, personal and political, may well have played a big role in the decision of the former national basketball player.

Over the past year he has seen Jörg Haider, the right-wing populist, eat away at the grassroots support of his Social Democrats, appealing to the fears and prejudices of Austrian workers disillusioned by what they regard as the meagre benefits of EU membership. That led to a plunge in support for Herr Vranitzky at last autumn's European elections, the dislodging of the Social Democrats in Vienna and a very shaky coalition with the conservative People's Party.

The Government had looked close to collapse over the past fortnight as the two parties argued over the priva-

tisation of Creditanstalt, Austria's second largest bank. The Chancellor survived and seemed set to steer Austria at least until general elections in 1998/99. The energy seemed to have oozed out of the man, however, and his once voracious appetite for power has long since gone.

The prospect of an election campaign fought again on European issues — it will coincide with the introduction of monetary union — seems to have depressed the Chancellor. His chosen successor, by contrast, has proved he is able to launch a strong offensive against Herr Haider and shown himself as more than a match in debate. Moreover, it

is Herr Klima who has been trying to tailor the budget to make Austria fit for monetary union.

The fundamental problems remain, however. Austria voted to join the EU in 1994, before it had solved its deep-seated political and economic malaise: membership "now puts the squeeze on the system, forcing Austria to modernise. The conventional politics of Austria are beginning to crumble. Voters believe they were misled by politicians (who promised among other things that EU membership would create jobs and bring down inflation). The ultra-nationalist Herr Haider is happily poaching voters from both the mainstream governing parties. Herr Haider has vowed to be Chancellor by 2000. That dream may have come a little closer, thanks to Herr Vranitzky's resignation.

Although the Chancellor was slow to adapt, he kept firm the core Social Democratic constituency. He helped to restore Austria's international standing after the Waldheim scandal and went out of his way to apologise for Austria's role in the Holocaust.

The strong hope of the Social Democrats is that Herr Klima will rejuvenate the party and boost its support sufficiently to forge a new kind of coalition with the Greens and the small Liberal Party.



Vranitzky: more than ten years at the helm

Pakistani mourners run amok

Islamabad: Crowds mourning the death of extremist Sunni Muslim leaders killed in a bomb attack ransacked and set on fire Iranian culture centres in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore yesterday (Zahid Hussain writes).

The protesters chanted slogans against Iranian leaders, accusing them of masterminding the incident on Saturday in which a remote-controlled bomb exploded inside a court building, killing 26 people, including Ziaur Rehman Farooqi, chief of a militant Sunni Muslim organisation, and injuring 80 others.

Joy in Bulgaria over new leader

Sofia: Thousands of people danced at a rally in the Bulgarian capital to celebrate the swearing in of Petar Stoyanov as President. He has supported opposition demands for a quick general election to break the country's political deadlock. Protesters have staged 14 consecutive days of mass rallies against economic hardship blamed on the ruling Socialists. (Reuters)

Miami officials asked to resign

Miami: Ed Marquez, Miami's new city manager, intent on rebuilding the administration after a financial crisis and corruption scandal, has asked all of his 15 top managers and department heads to resign. Joe Carollo, the Mayor, has blamed the city's \$68 million (\$41 million) budget shortfall on previous mismanagement and corruption. (AP)

Greek farmers fight strikers

Athens: Farmers in Crete, who have been unable to get their produce to markets on the mainland, fought striking seamen at the weekend, as Greece lurched towards a second round of unrest (John Carr writes). The seamen, who object to plans to do away with their tax-free status, have been on strike for eight days.

Norwegian hits Antarctica target

Wellington: Boerge Ousland, 34, became the first person to walk across Antarctica alone and unaided when he arrived at New Zealand's Scott Base on Saturday. During parts of the 1,800-mile walk he retraced the 1911 route of his fellow Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, the first person to reach the South Pole. (Reuters)

Luther King son follows father

Los Angeles: Martin Luther King III, the son of the assassinated American civil rights leader, has announced that he is forming a new group to advance black causes (Giles Whittell writes). Mr King said the group would oppose enemies of "affirmative action" programmes.

Milosevic 'prepared to unleash new war'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

SERBIA lurched into a third month of street protests yesterday with the opposition coalition's leader, Vuk Draskovic, giving a warning that President Milosevic was preparing a bloody last stand.

Unfolding events in Kosovo, where a bomb explosion in the capital, Pristina, on Friday signalled a possible provocation against Serbia's Albanian minority and the spectre of another Balkan conflict, have cast a pall over Belgrade's colourful, noisy and imaginative protests. Mr Draskovic told a 40,000-strong

crowd yesterday that the Kosovo blast was no coincidence, since it took place when Mr Milosevic had lost virtually all credibility and support in Belgrade. It bore the hallmarks of a ploy by a cornered President with a history of saving himself at any cost, including all-out war.

Mr Draskovic added: "He solved the problem of the small war in Slovenia by making the bigger war in Croatia, and after that he so-called solved the war in Croatia by promoting disaster in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

The blast left Professor Radivoje Papovic, the pro-Milosevic rector of Pristina University, and his driver seriously ill. No one has admitted responsibility.

but Serbia's Socialist media machinery blamed "Albanian extremists in league with the Zaječar [together] coalition".

Another conflicting force in Serbia emerged at the weekend with a message of support from Crown Prince Alexander, son of the former Yugoslav King Peter. He drew rapturous applause from Saturday's crowd, which chanted "we want a king".

Mr Draskovic assured supporters that, with Zaječar in power, they would be able to choose between a "democratic republic or constitutional parliamentary monarchy". He told *The Times* that he preferred the monarchy's restoration as a counterweight against dictatorship.

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Hebron crowds hail triumphant Arafat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HEBRON

YASSIR ARAFAT returned in triumph to Hebron yesterday after an absence of 32 years and made a speech conciliatory to the 450 remaining Jewish settlers.

The bearded Palestinian leader, given a hero's welcome by tens of thousands of jubilant Palestinians, also claimed that the peace process had been transformed now it had been joined by the right-wing Likud Party of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — "a friend and a partner in peace".

"Now, with this Hebron deal, we have signed peace with all the Israeli people," the former guerrilla leader said. "This is something new... We will make peace together in the Middle East hand by hand, heart by heart, soul by soul." He called for the peace-treaties between the Jewish state and Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to be followed by peace with Syria and Lebanon.

Standing on the balcony of the former Israeli military headquarters, Mr Arafat,

dressed in his chequered keffiyeh and his olive-green fatigues, told the crowd: "I say to the settlers here in Hebron that we do not want confrontation... we want a just peace." Although the militant settlers living under heavy military guard less than two miles away rebuffed his gesture and

the expulsion of the settlers from Hebron," Mr Bar-Illan said. "That is something we consider unacceptable which can damage the continuation of the peace process."

Yesterday's return by Mr Arafat to a city of 120,000 Arabs that he had not visited since 1965, and which fell to

Hebronites who flocked to the hilltop fort created a festive atmosphere rarely seen in Hebron, a city with a long history of violence between Arabs and Jews. "With our blood and soul, we sacrifice for you, Abu Ammar," they chanted, using Mr Arafat's *nom de guerre*.

"We waited a long time for you," read one of the slogans as the crowd, expectant of further moves towards their elusive independence, shouted "Long live Palestine". Asmil al-Jahoun, a 57-year-old mechanic who had been imprisoned in the fort — which doubled as an Israeli jail — voiced the general mood. "For the first time, we now feel that we are masters of our own destiny. It makes us very, very happy."

Another Hebronite, Hassan Suleiman, said: "I longed for this day for so many years, so many days, so many months to see my President here. Even a week ago I would not believe it could happen, that the redeployment of Israeli troops from 80 per cent of



Yassir Arafat gives a double victory sign to tens of thousands of Palestinians in "liberated" Hebron yesterday

Hebron would actually go ahead."

Mr Arafat, who arrived by helicopter, told his supporters: "I declare Hebron a liberated city." The next goal was to take control of the rest of the West Bank and establish a

new Palestinian state. As the crowd cheered, he added: "We will continue until Jerusalem."

Aware that Hebron is a stronghold of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Mr Arafat boosted his standing by assuring the

crowd that Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the blind, wheelchair-bound Hamas spiritual leader, would eventually be released from the Israeli jail where he is held and that the remaining Palestinian women prisoners held by Israel would

be set free "in a few days". Foreign observers said the size and enthusiasm of his welcome in a city noted for its Islamic fervour showed the growing support among ordinary Palestinians for a peace process that Hamas opposes.

Hutu extremists kill Spanish relief workers

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUTU extremists have unleashed a wave of terror across Rwanda, culminating in the weekend murders of three Spanish aid workers, and a witness who had given evidence against alleged genocide leaders at United Nations trials in Arusha, Tanzania.

The three dead Spaniards — a woman and two men working for Médicos del Mundo — lay in pools of blood yesterday. They had been shot in the head at the compound where they were living at Ruhengeri, 140 miles northwest of Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

An American escaped death but needed to have his leg amputated. Three Rwandan soldiers were killed defending the compound, which also houses workers with Save the Children, who are providing medical relief for Hutus returning to Rwanda.

In Madrid, Médicos del Mundo named the Spaniards as Manuel Madrazo, 42, a doctor from Seville; Maria Flora Sierra, 33, a nurse from Lérida; and Luis Valtierra, 30, a photographer from Madrid who was working as an administrator. In Paris, the parent organisation, Médecins du Monde, announced that it was suspending all activities in Rwanda.

A diplomat said that Hutu militiamen had gone to the house on Saturday night. After checking the Spaniards'

passports, they had shot them at point-blank range.

It was the latest in a series of attacks on aid workers, hospitals and foreigners in Rwanda which have escalated since the return of more than 600,000 Hutus from eastern Zaïre at the end of last year.

A senior Rwandan military officer said: "These attacks are deliberately mounted to scare away expatriates."

A UN official said: "As soon as we have talked to the Rwandan Army we will be discussing whether or not to suspend operations." On the same night a grenade was thrown into an aid worker's house, he added.

Last week Hutu extremists murdered a prosecution witness, her husband and seven children after she appeared before the UN trials, at which she was promised protection from killers bent on silencing witnesses to the genocide in 1994. The woman had testified against Jean-Paul Akayesu, 43, the former Mayor of Taba, 20 miles south of Kigali.

Mr Akayesu has been indicted for his alleged part as a leader in the killing of more than 2,000 people in Taba between April and June 1994.

The UN has refused to divulge the identity of the dead witness. But it is thought that she was a Hutu who knew Mr Akayesu well and had accused him of personally killing men, women and children, and of calling for the extermination of all Tutsis.

Honore Rakotomanana, the deputy prosecutor for the UN tribunal, said that he was reviewing the witness-protection programme.

□ Kigali: A court sentenced three former teachers to death for helping to plot Rwanda's 1994 genocide, in which half a million people were killed, Rwandan radio reported yesterday. A court in southern Butare on Friday had convicted the three Hutus of mass murder and crimes against humanity, the radio report said. (AP)



Akayesu: accused at trial by murdered witness

Balloonist heads for landing in India

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

STEVE FOSSETT, 57, plans to abandon his round-the-world balloon flight today after a record-setting run from the American Midwest.

Flying at 23,000ft and 120 knots, he passed into Indian airspace yesterday and was expected to touch down between Delhi and Calcutta this afternoon after breaking the balloon endurance record of six days and 16 minutes at 06:19 GMT.

The American commodities trader decided to abort his effort to circle the globe after concluding that he did not have enough fuel to cross the Pacific. His ground crew said fuel had been wasted in changing course when Libya refused him permission to overfly the country, even though Colonel Muammar Gaddafi later relented.

"We cannot blame it all on that," said Rick Saum, the

mission's technical director in Chicago. "He has used more fuel than he should have and we have a lot of experience and we do not know why."

The silver 150ft double-skinned *Solo Spirit* mission has been the longest of this year's three round-the-world attempts. Richard Branson's *Virgin Global Challenger* was forced down by equipment problems in Algeria two days into its flight. The Swiss psychiatrist Bertrand Picard ditched in the Mediterranean six hours after take-off when paraffin fumes filled his cockpit.

Mr Fossett has beaten his own distance ballooning record of 5,435 miles, set on a 1995 flight from South Korea to Canada. If he lands east of Delhi he will have covered about 10,000 miles since taking off from St Louis, Missouri, last Monday.



Words don't come easy.

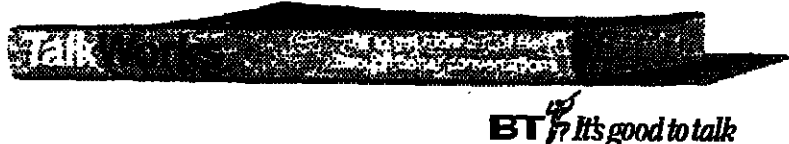
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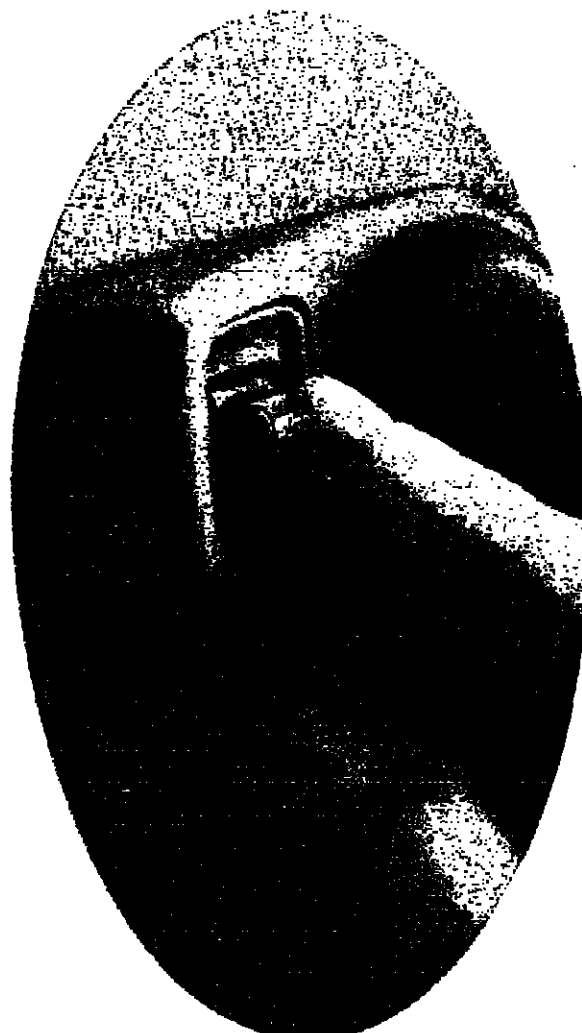
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Second-term Clinton to offer hand of peace

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TRUE to his reputation for last-minute preparation, President Clinton will spend this morning polishing the last phrases of his inaugural speech, before being sworn in at noon in front of the Capitol for a second time as President of the United States.

Despite temperatures plunging below freezing, hundreds of thousands crowded into the capital ready to celebrate, while banks and hotels decked their facades in 60ft American flags.

Mr Clinton intends his speech to "help blast the poison from the atmosphere" after months of acrimony between Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill. He has spent weeks poring over the inaugural addresses of America's greatest Presidents. The thrust of his speech will be the assertion that government has a central role in improving people's lives.

Mr Clinton, in an interview with *The Washington Post* published yesterday, says that his first term was marked by "big battles" with Republicans over this principle, a fight he regarded as settled in his favour when Republicans shut down the government and provoked public hostility.

On Saturday night 16,500 fireworks, costing \$300,000 (£230,000), were let off from ten separate sites around the city. The Grucci family, which calls itself the First Family of Fireworks, co-ordinated the show from a tiny room in the

USA Today building south of the Potomac river.

Mr Clinton, who had earlier cancelled his attendance at a fund-raising dinner on the grounds that it would appear inappropriately partisan, watched the show from the White House balcony.

Although the White House has deliberately made Mr Clinton's second inauguration a more subdued affair than the first, the Mall, the avenue running from Capitol Hill past the White House, has been packed with thousands of visitors since Saturday, although the cold weather has kept the crowds well below

1993 levels. There are only four large tents on the Mall, compared to more than 60 when Mr Clinton became the first Democratic President to enter the White House for 12 years.

The centrepiece, a 30 ft "bridge to the 21st century", erected between two tents, is reminiscent of a school playground. Visitors are invited to write their wish on a piece of adhesive paper and stick it to the bridge. Yesterday one of the most prominent included "End Limer Rule in Northern Ireland".

After the swearing in, there will be an 8,000-strong parade down the Mall, with acts

ranging from the solemn to the cute. Bands and dancers have been competing across the country for months to be selected for the honour of participating. Military bands will head the parade, followed by groups such as Daria's Dancers of Ohio, who will perform a clog dance, and The Mid-American Pom-pom All-Star Team of Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Tickets along the 1.7-mile route cost \$10, \$50 and \$100, becoming more expensive towards the White House. More than 3,000 of Washington's policemen and hundreds of Secret Service men have been monitoring the route for weeks. Dozens of municipal workers are on hand to clean up after the 360 horses and a donkey, the Democratic symbol.

The climax of the celebrations will be tonight's 13 inaugural balls. But for many in the capital, it is the private parties which are the greater attraction. MTV and *Condé Nast* took over the elegant Corcoran Art Gallery for a party for 2,000 guests on Saturday night, at which Hillary Clinton made a brief appearance.

□ Boston: Paul Tsongas, a former senator who pushed ahead of Mr Clinton to become the Democratic front-runner for President briefly in 1992, died of pneumonia. He was 55. (AP)

Inauguration guide, page 15

Gingrich 'must pay his fine from own funds'

LEADING Democrats yesterday pressed for Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to pay the \$300,000 (£180,000) fine recommended by an ethics investigation from his own pocket rather than from campaign funds (Bronwen Maddox writes).

Mr Gingrich's office was reported as saying that there were precedents for using campaign funds to pay such fines. The comment provoked outrage from Democrats and campaign reform groups, who said the use of campaign funds would make the sanction "a joke".

After the election, Mr Gingrich's campaign committee had made more than \$1 million in cash, and his political action committee had \$27,394 in cash. James Cole, the committee's special counsel, said on Friday that Mr Gingrich had to pay the penalty "the right way. If he doesn't... there's a chance of being back" before the ethics hearings.

The House will vote tomorrow on whether to accept the ethics committee's conclusion that Mr Gingrich misled his colleagues about his use of tax-exempt charitable funds for political purposes.



Fireworks light up the sky above the Washington Monument at the weekend

Pastor 'arrested smoking cocaine'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN EPISCOPALIAN pastor at a troubled New York church has been arrested after police found him allegedly smoking crack cocaine in the rectory while writing his sermon.

The Rev Canon Chester LaRue made headlines as a "fighting father" last month when he reportedly fended off two burglars at St John's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn during the Christmas holidays by kneeling one of them in the groin. One of the burglars later told police, however, that a man living above Mr LaRue in the rectory was running a drug delivery service from the church. Customers would use a beeper to contact the man, Ruben Serrano, and he would send a messenger to deliver cocaine, it was claimed.

Undercover officers decided to raid the church premises. They found Mr LaRue dressed in clerical garb and typing his sermon on a computer with a crack pipe in his hand. "It was kind of odd to find a man of the cloth," said Lieutenant Kevin Barry, the commander of the local police precinct.

The bespectacled Mr LaRue, 54, told police that he had first smoked crack cocaine to show an addict how easy it was to kick the habit, but quickly found out he was wrong. "To my great surprise, I like it," he reportedly confessed.

Police said Mr Serrano and his girlfriend were also arrested when they were found packaging crack.

Parishioners were stunned by the news. "Holy goodness," said one. "I didn't even think he smoked cigarettes."

The congregation was only just emerging from the last scandal at St John's, which is known as the "church of the generals" because Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson both worshipped there.

The last pastor, George Hoeh, was strangled by his homosexual lover at his holiday home in New Jersey in 1986.

Second witness sought in Cosby killing

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES



Sketch of chief suspect

POLICE believe the killer of Ennis Cosby was a white man of average weight and height, aged between 25 and 32, with heavy features and a close-fitting woollen hat. A composite sketch of the suspect was issued on Saturday, two days after the 27-year-old, only son of Bill Cosby, the entertainer, was found murdered next to his car in west Los Angeles.

"We're not by any shape desperate,"

Tim McBride, the police commander, said, although he admitted that leads pointed in "lots of directions" and called on the public to help to identify the chief suspect in Hollywood's latest tragedy.

In a new twist to a crime whose motive is still being described as robbery, a sketch of a possible second witness was also released on Saturday. The man, who was white, with a goatee beard, was seen leaving the murder scene in a blue hatchback with out-of-state number plates. Although he is wanted as a

witness, police refused to rule out the possibility that he might be a suspect.

Both sketches were based on interviews with the 47-year-old screenwriter Mr Cosby was on his way to visit when he was shot dead while changing a tyre. Summoned by mobile phone, the woman witness had gone to help by shining her headlights on his stranded Mercedes.

Experts believe delays in issuing the sketches, caused by the witness's traumatised condition, could hamper the investigation.

Exxon seeks oil tanker's return to Alaska waters

Los Angeles: In a move bitterly fought by Alaskan natives,

the Exxon oil company is lobbying for its Exxon Valdez tanker to be allowed back into Prince William Sound, seven years after running aground there with catastrophic results (Giles Whittell writes).

As part of an Oil Pollution Act passed in the wake of the

11 million gallons oil spillage, the Exxon Valdez was banned from Alaskan waters. Exxon's lawyers now claim that the company is being victimised by an unconstitutional retroactive application of the law.

"It is impossible to overstate the depth of Exxon's insensitivity to the Alaskan natives," Gary Mason, a lawyer, said.

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WHY THE BA/AA MONOPOLY MUST BE STOPPED.

BY SIR FREDDIE LAKER.



Sir Freddie Laker shortly before the collapse of his airline in 1982, after which transatlantic airline fares soared.

...the Prime Minister...
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...and land...

Dear Prime Minister,

When, in 1982, my Skytrain was forced out of business, the British and American flying public lost out.

Transatlantic fares rose, because BA and the other members of the transatlantic cartel had little or no competition. The public had no choice but to pay the increased fares.

I know that my airline was sabotaged by aggressive and unfair tactics by BA and others, to which the authorities turned a blind eye.

After the event, the then Conservative transport minister Ian Sproat even said "I've got Freddie Laker's blood on my hands!"

Now BA and American Airlines are wanting to form a monopoly on transatlantic routes, which will allow them again to overwhelm other airlines, put their prices up, and force competition out of the market place.

Clearly, this can only be in the interest of BA and American. Leopards never change their spots!

For the following reasons, I believe the BA/American deal should be stopped.

Currently, the Office of Fair Trading are looking at draft undertakings which will limit the power of the merger.

The undertakings are mild, ineffective, and will still result in BA and American having a massive monopoly on transatlantic routes.

Monopolies in any other industry are illegal and are not in the public interest.

With such an overwhelming monopoly, the public and certainly other airlines will lose out again. There is no doubt that, like all monopolies, BA and American will use jugular marketing and other 'cartel' style price cutting, including 'dirty tricks' of the kind that drove Skytrain out of business. Then, as before, fares will skyrocket.

If, as BA and American claim, the merger will produce lower fares and create more competition, why are they seeking anti trust immunity from the US government?

Prime Minister, the answer is simple. They intend to 'fix' fares.

The Office Of Fair Trading's report on the merger currently recommends that BA and American must relinquish seven pairs of take off and landing slots per day on a permanent

basis for the seven carriers wishing to fly from Heathrow to the US.

That's one slot each. It's hardly going to lessen the power of the monopoly. BA and American will still control between 70% and 80% of the peak take off and landing slots.

Furthermore, in practice, BA and American are not obliged to give up actual transatlantic slots by the OFT.

Instead they could, for instance, give up European, or even domestic services, such as Plymouth to London!

This wouldn't diminish the power of the monopoly at all on transatlantic routes, though it might mean some UK cities losing their Heathrow flights.

What's more, BA are demanding that they be given the right to sell the slots, which in my and many other people's opinions is extraordinary. The slots belong to the people. We paid for them as taxpayers. Why should BA benefit whilst the real owners, the people, pay a premium for their own airport slots?

Meanwhile all this does is make the monopoly even more powerful by giving it huge amounts of extra revenue.

In conclusion, I believe both politicians and the public are currently being duped into thinking this monopoly will be less powerful than it actually will be.

This cosy cartel is an affront to fair play and equality. And, I believe, it is contrary to anti trust law.

BA and American Airlines must be made to compete on a level playing field with airlines such as Virgin Atlantic, United, and, indeed, the new Laker Airways Incorporated.

As the Consumer's Association said recently "We continue to hold the view that this alliance must be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and must ultimately be blocked."

Please, Prime Minister, remember the past. Make sure this 'merger' is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Because, should it be allowed to go ahead, the British flying public will have to live with its dire consequences for many years to come.

Freddie Laker

Sir Freddie Laker.

When the face is an open book

Faces excite and delight, attract and repel us: at the same time, they inform us. I can learn so much about you from a glance. Have we met? Where are you from? Are you happy, angry or sad? Are you interested in me? In a noisy room, I can read your lips. The human face is the clearest picture of the human soul — even if it sometimes lies.

Given the feast of social signals on offer from the face, we might expect our brains to contain some sophisticated equipment for decoding them. Research conducted over the past 15 years, much of it in Britain, has borne this out. A spectacular example appeared in *Nature* recently, in a study of fear.

Charles Darwin is the grandfather of this line of inquiry. He published *The Expression of Emotions in Animals and Man* in 1872, extending his theory of the evolution of physical form into the realms of emotion and behaviour. He believed, like contemporary sociobiologists, that these also have a natural history.

Darwin conjures up fear with some relish: "It is often preceded by astonishment, and is so far akin to it, that both lead to the senses of sight and hearing being instantly aroused... the eyes and mouth are widely opened and the eyebrows raised, as the frightened man stands like a statue motionless and breathless."

In the middle of this century, Darwin's views on emotion became unfashionable. Amid general scepticism that biology played a big part in determining human behaviour, anthropologists concluded that there is no "natural" language of emotional gesture. But persuasive work by Professor Paul Ekman, an American psychologist, and others in the Seventies overturned this.

Professor Ekman found that a small group of facial expressions conveys similar emotions the world over, although social convention affects when and where we display them. Fear, anger, happiness, sadness and disgust are now generally agreed to be "universal" emotions, equally evident on faces in New Guinea and Newmarket. There is some strong evidence that we do not need to learn how to express these emotions: blind children begin to display them at much the same age as their sighted peers.

In a similar vein, psychologists have long suspected that interpreting facial emotion is a specific ability, independent of the ability to identify faces. Patients with "prosopagnosia", such as Professor Oliver Sack's *Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, may be unable to recognise faces, but sometimes remain able to decode their expressions.

Until recently it seemed a reasonable assumption that this ability to read emotion from the face was a unitary psychological capacity. In other words, it was thought that

How do we know at a glance whether somebody is feeling angry or unhappy? Adam Zeman on decoding the language of facial emotion

the recognition of all emotions took place in the same region of the brain. However, the exact location of this region was far from clear. Work over the past two years, reported independently by Professor Andrew Young and Dr Andrew Calder from the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, and by Dr Ralph Adolphs and Dr Antonio Damasio at the University of Iowa, has pinpointed a structure in the brain crucial to reading facial emotion, supporting the notion that such abilities are special. In fact, they turn out to be even more selective than we thought. This structure is not required for reading all the emotions: it specifically enables us to see anger and fear.

This conclusion came from work with a patient whose amygdalae had been damaged surgically on both sides of the brain, as a way of controlling her epilepsy. Similar in size and shape to an almond, the amygdala is tucked in beneath the surface of the temporal lobe, a part of the brain lying on the other side of the ear.

The patient in question, known as DR, had no difficulty in recognising familiar faces. She did seem poor at reading facial emotion. But as work progressed it became clear that detecting the signs of happiness and sadness, surprise and disgust, posed no problem for her, and she was somewhat unreliable with anger. But she was all at sea with fear.

This made sense. It is known from research with animals that their amygdalae are active in circumstances that provoke fear or anger. Patients with epilepsy arising from the amygdalae sometimes experience surges of these emotions during attacks. Finally, the amygdalae receive a rich stream of information from visual areas of the brain which are excited by faces, first identified by Dr Edmund Rolls and Dr David Perrett at Oxford University in the Eighties. If any region of the brain should play a part in perceiving the signs of fear in a face, then it is the amygdalae.

The question asked by Professor Chris Frith, Professor Young, Dr Perrett and collaborators at the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology at Queen Square in

London, and answered in *Nature*, was elegantly simple. What happens in the normal human brain when it is confronted by a fearful face?

Two technical advances have made it possible to address this question. Positron emission tomography maps areas within the brain that become activated when it performs a task. Computerised graphics allow the creation of an evenly graded series of "morphed" expressions, running between one emotion, like happiness, and another, like fear.

The team at Queen Square examined the activation of the brains of normal subjects looking at faces whose expressions traversed the spectrum from happiness to fear. The subjects were not asked to concentrate on facial emotion: their explicit task was to decide the gender of the faces. But as the "percentage" of fear increased, so did the activation of the amygdalae.

These observations are taken a step further in another research paper, by Dr Sophie Scott, Professor Young and colleagues, published last week in *Nature*. Could damage to the amygdalae cause problems in recognising the sound of fear, as well as the sight? Do we read the human voice with the same neural equipment with which we read the human face?

So it seems. Patient DR had comparable difficulty in recognising the intonations that convey a speaker's anger or unease. She was poor at identifying the emotion conveyed by an angry growl or a fearful scream. However, her ability to discriminate similar sounds, such as "dog" and "zeg", or "house" and "mouse", and environmental noises such as the pattering of rain, remained unimpaired.

This finding beautifully illustrates two broad principles of brain function. The first is its fine division of labour. In spite of the seamlessness of our ordinary experience, distinct brain areas enable us to perceive colour, to detect movement, to recognise faces — and even to see fear. The clearest proof of this fact is that each of these abilities can be independently impaired.

The second principle is complementary to the first. The brain has to take the world apart to comprehend it, but it needs to reintegrate the parts when it generates action. This need can give rise to surprising combinations of function. The amygdalae, for example, seem to mediate fear in all its aspects: as we experience it, as we express it, and as we perceive it in others.

"I will show you fear in a handful of dust," wrote T.S. Eliot. Dr Damasio, Professor Young, Professor Frith and their colleagues have tracked it down in an almond, at the intersection of emotion, perception and behaviour in the brain.

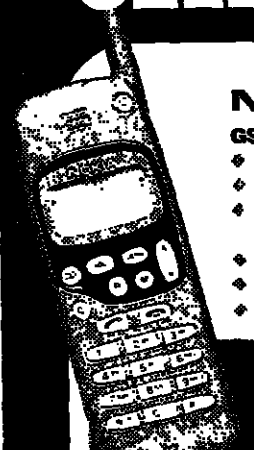
■ The author is consultant neurologist at the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh



A few facial expressions are universal, but psychologists believe that interpreting them is a specific ability

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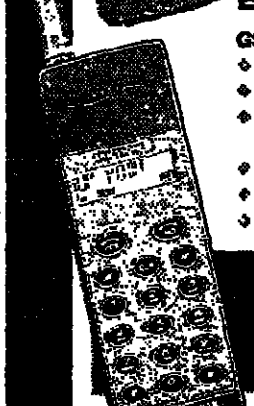
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□ Black holes solved □ HIV vaccines □ The happiest nations

Swallowed by a star

A STAR apparently swallowing clouds of gas from its neighbour has provided scientists with the clearest evidence yet that black holes, the Universe's strangest objects, really exist. Though no great surprise to astronomers, the evidence is a gratifying confirmation that Einstein's theory of general relativity was right in predicting their existence.

A team from the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, looked at nine pairs of stars in which one is pulling gas away from the other. Dr Ramesh Narayan and colleagues told the American Astronomical Society meeting in Toronto last week that in five of the nine pairs, the massive object attracting the gas is a neutron star, left behind after the collapse of a huge star. The energy from the streaming gas makes the neutron stars glow more brightly.

But in the remaining four pairs the energy simply dis-

appears — a "strong indication" that the object is not a neutron star but a black hole, which is swallowing the gas. In the case of one object, V404 Cyg, which is in the constellation of Cygnus and is 10,000 light years away from us, "the star seems to be swallowing almost 100 times as much energy as it radiates, and the only way this can happen is if the star is a true black hole", Dr Narayan said.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

"This is the most direct evidence scientists have that black holes are real." A second study presented at the same meeting reached the same conclusions by an entirely different technique. Professor Douglas Richstone of the University of Michigan and colleagues analysed data from the Hubble space telescope and identified three new black holes, all in galaxies within 50 million light years of Earth.

From the Hubble images they worked out the movements of stars at different distances from the centre of the three galaxies. "Based on the size of the galaxy and the velocity pattern of the stars at the core of the galaxy, we can not only detect the signal from the black hole, we can also predict its mass," said Professor Richstone.

The analysis was aided by a new computer model, developed by Dr Karl Gebhardt at the University, which predicts how the stars should behave around a black hole. Basically they move faster as they get towards the centre, like water going down a plughole. The team says that the mass of each black hole is proportional to the mass of its parent galaxy, suggesting that the growth of the black hole is linked to the formation of the galaxy. "We believe a massive black hole exists at the centre of nearly every galaxy in the universe," Professor Richstone said.

Monkeys key to HIV vaccine

VACCINES against HIV, the Aids virus, may have come a little closer as a result of research reported by Dr Ronald Derorsiers, of the New England Primate Research Centre. Earlier work had shown that monkeys can be protected against the simian equivalent of HIV by injecting them with a weakened version of the virus responsible, SIV. The problem was that

while large doses of the vaccine protected adult monkeys, they actually caused the disease in newborns. Now Dr Derorsiers has reported in the January issue of *Nature Medicine* that if lower doses of the vaccine are used, infants do not succumb. Only those given the highest dosages got the disease. This suggests that a vaccine based on attenuated HIV could provide protection without too much risk of infection, so long as the dose is precisely calculated.

Iceland laughs the longest

WHO are the happiest people on Earth? A Dutch team led by Ruut Veenhoven of Erasmus University has attempted to find out, measuring the quality of life in 48 countries by looking at how long and how happily the population of each lives. Iceland comes out top, with an average of 62 years of happy life, and Bulgaria bottom, with less than 32 years. Britain is gratifyingly

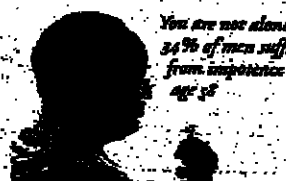
close to the top, scoring 57.9 years, ahead of America (57.1), France (55.37) and Germany (51.68). People live longer and more happily in rich nations than in poor ones, but there is a limit to the effects of wealth on the quality of life. For socialists, the bad news is that there does not seem to be any correlation between income equality and a better quality of life. But the survey brings little comfort to conservatives, either, showing that countries with rigid religious systems and strong family values score poorly. Personal freedom helps, and so do better education and employment opportunities for women.

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What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

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A man, a woman — and all the flavours of Eden

ASPECTS OF LOVE

In Part One of a series in which leading women writers examine love in the Nineties, Helen Dunmore explains how food and intimacy are inextricably linked

To write of food with love is the most innocent of pornographies. Say that Bernard has got up early and gone to market. He comes back with a basket of woven straw, in which nestle four fat, perfectly ripe figs. He gives the basket to Julia. Figs for breakfast. Her skin is as soft as suede. Julia chooses a fig and breathes in its spicy, sun-warmed fragrance. Bernard produces a bowl of thick yellow cream. Julia dips her fig into the cream, raises it to her mouth, and bites. The luscious, warm, grainy flesh melts into the cool unctuousness of cream. Years later, Bernard and Julie will never be able to separate the taste of figs from that of one another's lips.

Food, fruit, a man, a woman, sex. We are talking about Eden, and an Eden without food is impossible to imagine. Babies know about Eden when they latch on to the nipple, and stroke their mother's breasts to draw down the milk. Most of us develop a private Eden of food, which may well be purgatory to other people. I love the litany of apples: Egremont, Russet, Kidd's Orange, Charles Ross, James Grieve, Beauty of Bath, with his charming name and brief moment of flavour before it turns to flannel.

Then there are marzipan bars wrapped in bitter chocolate, muscled raisins in triangular boxes, and crusts torn from fresh white bread and covered with butter. My husband loves the first drawing of a pair of Christmas stockings, dry, black, and shiny. Guinness is certainly considered as a food rather than a drink in our house, if not as a religion.

The sharing of these private Edens is one of the most intimate delights. Children suck a toffee bar to a point, then hold it out to share with a friend. Friends cook for one another, showing off cherished dishes. Lovers drop their guard still further and admit to a passion for sandwich-spread, sandwiches, tinned peaches with Carnation milk, or a greedy heap of hot buttered toast in bed.

A smart dish of salmon

coulbiat can be shared with anybody, but a pair of plump Craster kippers, cooked in a jug and eaten with plenty of brown bread and butter, and much separation of whisky bones from the succulent flesh: now there's a meal for people who really know one another.

Some very odd shopping lists get written between those who are prepared to admit to the quickness of their food desires. And then, to shop together, to smell coffee being roasted in one shop, to watch ham being shaved off the bone in another, or to queue in the warm bakery to buy rolls, overnight bread and a cream cake in a white box. Or simply

to think a trolley around the supermarket each week, passing, perhaps, tomatoes on the vine, and yoghurts from Glenisney in tiny glass jars. I can't regard food shopping as a burden, as long as I have enough money to pay for it, and my daughter is happy to sit in the trolley while I decide whether or not to buy three

of each. The other face of this Eden is the hell of food prepared with cold indifference, or even hostility. The collapse of a relationship can be marked by the steady decline of the kitchen. To eat together becomes a nightmare. That way of spooning soup, once endearing, then bearable, now disgusting. Cheese goes back in the fridge uncovered and develops a hard yellow rind. The eggs are always past their sell-by date, the salad compartment contains a couple of tomatoes and a cucumber which oozes brown slime. A carton of fat-reduced milk, slightly off, is

poured into endless cups of instant coffee. The family swallows snatched meals and is still hungry; the food lies in each stomach in cold clods. In the final stages each person forages alone, arms huddled round a tray of TV dinner as if embracing their own misery.

It is hard to put a finger on all the delicate threads which connect food and emotional wellbeing, but very easy to see when these threads are broken. I think of the look of hurt, defensive misery in the face of a heavily overweight boy whom I saw alone in McDonald's, shovelling down his food in a way that made sure he could not enjoy it. Or the candle-wax skin of an anorexic girl, who has taught herself to think of food as a foreign language she need not speak.

Jane Eyre, at Lowood School, is doubly starved. The meagre food she gets is ruined by careless cooking. The porridge is so burnt that the ravenous children can't eat it. They wither from malnutrition, and from the lovelessness of the institution. When Miss Temple tenderly feeds Jane and the dying Helen Burns on exquisite fragments of toast and cake, they are lifted into another world. That scene moved me deeply when I first read *Jane Eyre*, as a child. Very soon the feast is over and the midwinter of Jane's physical and emotional life resumes; but I loved the way Jane clung onto her appetites. She had nothing, but she knew how to hunger.

Jane Eyre resists the burnt porridge. I make myself a cup of tea and dunk digestive biscuits in it, as I used to do with my mother when I was six years old. I would race back from school in order to get her to myself, with the baby asleep and my older sister not yet home, and we would drink tea together. These are things that go on for ever: the early winter twilight, the slap of my own running feet, the back door bursting open, the sweetness of the biscuit dissolving on my tongue.

● Helen Dunmore's book of short stories, *Love of Fat Men*, will be published by Viking in June, price £16



Most of us develop an Eden of food, which may be purgatory to others, says Helen Dunmore.

A President's ball is anything but a party

THE SECRET is out. For the Inaugural Balls tonight, after Bill Clinton has been sworn in a second time as President of the United States, Hillary Clinton will wear a clinging, tulle gown with matching satin cape by Oscar de la Renta. Her meetings with dress designers began soon after the election and speculation about the outcome has occupied gossip columns and dinner parties ever since.

The balls, the climax of two days of ceremony, are the social highlight of the four-year cycle of Washington life. They give the capital a chance to counter its image as a dowdy city, and the President a way to pay back his friends from the campaign trail. "Everyone who wants to be an insider goes," one Administration official says.

Yet real insiders know the truth. The official, who asked not to be named, adds that the balls "are awful, dreadful. You have this impression from the outside that they are glamorous things, but it's impossible to describe how bad they are."

As many as 70,000 people are expected to buy tickets at \$150 (about £90) a head for the 13 regional balls and the Youth Ball. Sales have been slower than four years ago, when Mr Clinton became the first Democrat for 12 years to occupy the White House.

Despite the large numbers, the balls are strictly partisan celebrations. Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich have been invited, but most Republicans are expected to stay at home.

CELEBRATIONS were not always on an industrial scale. The first ball, given in 1789 for George Washington, was small and decorous. The party for Abraham Lincoln in 1861 was subdued; with the nation on the brink of civil war, the President gave warning that "it is best for our women to remain indoors as the bullets may be flying". Woodrow Wilson cancelled the 1917 ball as too frivolous for a world at war.

It took the inauguration of John F. Kennedy in 1961 to inflate the scale. For the first time, the ball was spread over more than one site. Accompanied by Jackie in a white sheath dress and cape, the President toured all five dances.

Mr and Mrs Clinton are expected to visit all 14 balls. That will allow them just 15 minutes at each event. The need for venues as big as aircraft hangars has spread the parties across the breadth of downtown Washington. New York has commandeered the John F. Kennedy Centre.

the performing arts complex: Arkansas, the President's home state, has booked the Washington Convention Centre's Hall B, down the corridor from California in Hall A; both promise to be among the liveliest.

Meanwhile, Washington's boutiques and hairdressers have been overrun. Ed Solomon, of Anthony's of Georgetown, gentlemen's outfitters, usually charges \$50.95 for hiring an Oscar de la Renta tuxedo, but expects his prices to rise to \$100 by today. "Women will shop for three years for the perfect dress, but a man will wait until the last day before renting," he says.

After weeks of such



Hot couple: the Reagans

efforts, disappointment is inevitable, veterans say. Traditionally, it is ferociously cold. One President, William Harrison in March 1841, refused to wear hat or coat while delivering an hour-long speech, and died of pneumonia a month later. At Ronald Reagan's inauguration, trumpets froze to bandsmen's lips.

But there will be no hot food, other than hot dogs from street vendors. Organisers have planned only light snacks, with a cash bar for beer, wine and soft drinks. One seasoned ball-goer says: "The food table starts out looking nice, but after an hour no one will go near it, it looks so disgusting. And it's almost impossible to drink too much because you can't get to the bar." Most disappointing of all, no one has room to dance.

For those at the most exclusive private parties, the next morning may bring a much-coveted mention in the *Style* section of *The Washington Post*. However, survivors of the official balls are likely to share the verdict of Washington insiders that most people don't go more than once.

BRONWEN MADDOX

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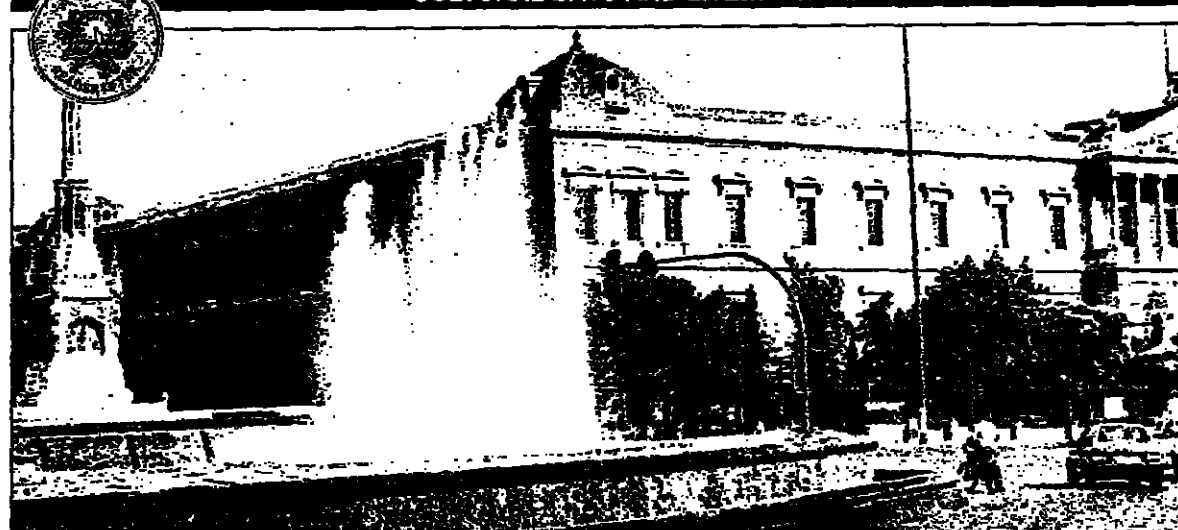
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Pupils in Britain do less homework than in other countries. John O'Leary asks if they

Homework's coming home



No link could be proved between hours of homework and improved examination results

Nineteen out of twenty parents think homework is important, according to a Government-sponsored report last week. Politicians obviously agree, since they have been straying increasingly into this unaccustomed territory. But that is where consensus ends.

School inspectors find that homework is the hottest issue at most parents' meetings: invariably, one group wants more while another thinks their children are given too much. In the political arena, there is equal disagreement about whether teachers need national instructions on how long pupils should labour.

So why has homework suddenly become the educational buzzword? Cynics say because it is cost-free. But a more realistic explanation lies in the surveys showing that most British pupils get off lightly compared with those in countries with better results.

British pupils between the ages of seven and 12 were found to do much less homework than their counterparts in France, Germany, Japan, China or the United States. The American market research company Roper Starch found that only 42 per cent of the British sample were set work on three or more evenings a week, compared with 90 per cent or more elsewhere.

By the age of 14, the average load in Britain has risen to six hours a week, although the variations between schools are immense. In Hungary, Holland, Poland, Israel, Italy and Japan, the average is more than eight hours.

Yet the evidence suggests that the amount of homework set in British schools has been growing. While almost a quarter of secondary school pupils do less than two hours' homework a week, according to Keele University's national database, 7 per cent do more than ten hours. Parents find themselves often doing the homework, thereby distorting the results and defeating the purpose of the exercise.

A study by the National Foundation for Educational Research found that more than 40 per cent of 11-year-olds were never expected to take work home. In the following year, after transfer to secondary school, almost two thirds of pupils were doing less than Labour's recommended 90 minutes per night.

In many independent and grammar schools, however, as well as the more academic comprehensives, overload is the main concern. For every disgruntled parent, who feels that their child is not being stretched, there is another worried about the pressure of projects and coursework. Conscientious girls, in particular, will toil late into the night.

At King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls in Birmingham, one of the top state schools, the norm for 11 to 13-year-olds has been reduced from 90 minutes to an hour a night because of fears that other activities were suffering. Elspeth Insch, the Principal, said: "Cutting the time spent on homework does not mean we don't think it's important. I think it is vital to the learning process. But in our case the girls were doing too much."

Even the hardest taskmasters hardly compare with the pressures on pupils in the high-performing countries of the Pacific Rim. Homework in Japan builds up from about an hour a night at the age of ten to four hours as university entrance examinations approach. Some schools expect teachers to visit pupils' homes to check assignments are being done.

Professor Michael Barber's report for the Department for Education and Employment conceded, like others before, that no link could be proved between hours of homework and improved examination results. Academics, like politicians, are agreed that homework makes a difference, but they cannot say how much.

JOHN O'LEARY



School inspectors find homework is the hottest issue at parents' meetings: some want more, others less

HISTORY OF CONCERN

HOMEWORK began as "prep" in 19th-century boarding schools. In day schools it was a response to the establishment of HMI schools inspections and the creation of public examinations. Teachers, whose salaries were linked to examination results, gave homework to pupils who required extra coaching. This consisted of learning by rote — sums, tables and spellings to be tested in class.

The issue attracted little further attention until the 1930s, when, after an HMI survey, the Board of Education set homework quantity at one-half hour to two hours a night for secondary pupils, none for primary pupils, and that clubs, hobbies and sport should be as important as academic study in the home. To achieve this, staff were instructed to set homework relevant to class work and not to underestimate time required for tasks. In the poorest inner-city districts, reading schemes were established.

From this period, up until the 1970s, hours of homework appeared to remain constant — averaging 30 minutes per night for 11 to 13 year-olds, one to three hours for 14 to 15 year-olds and two to three hours for 16 to 18 year-olds.

In the 1970s, school boards and teachers' unions argued that the home was no place for study.

The most radical shake-up of homework came with the introduction of the national curriculum, league tables and GCSEs in 1986. Julian Stern, an educational consultant based at London University's Institute of Education, says: "With renewed concerns about school standards, greater emphasis on exam results, and the introduction of coursework as a contribution to qualifications, homework has been formalised."

"These changes also saw a transformation in the content of homework. Traditionally it focused on exercises to practise particular operations or processes, verbal memorising, revision of previous work and preparation for a coming lesson. Today it is designed to nurture individual research, open up areas of study and make use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom."

Now concern is being voiced once again about the circumstances under which homework takes place. "A particular worry regarding standards in the new curriculum is the degree of help some pupils are given at home," says Michael Barber, whose study on homework was published last week. "Standards are naturally easier to control through

BRIDGET HARRISON

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

An interview with Nicholas Hytner, director of the new film adaptation of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

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CHANGING TIMES

'Digging in books can be fun'



Melanie Hook thinks Emily is not pushed hard enough

Name: Emily Hook, 10
School: St Andrew's C of E Primary, Halstead, Essex. Year 5

Homework: 2 hours/week
"Most of what I have to do is research — finding out the names of capital cities, that kind of thing. Our teacher likes to set us challenges for the next day. It can be fun, digging around in books for information, asking Mum and Dad questions. My mum thinks that I should have more homework to do but I think what I do is about right — I do about two hours a week. Not everyone in my class agrees: one boy really hates doing homework and causes a terrible fuss whenever it is set. When I go to senior school I know I will have to do a lot more homework, so it's good to start early."

Melanie Hook (mother). "Emily is a very bright child

but sometimes I feel that she is not pushed hard enough at school. She is given homework, but it tends to be unstructured, revolving around research and finishing off what she has been doing during the day. At present, we are trying to prepare Emily for her 11-plus — there are some excellent local grammar schools, particularly in Colchester and Chelmsford. We are having to do most of the preparation ourselves because St Andrew's prefers its children to go to the local comprehensive. I tend to feel that in a mixed ability system the brighter pupils are not tested: too much emphasis is put on helping the slower, less able pupils. Emily would certainly thrive in a disciplined single sex environment, where homework was demanding. Children who are used to learning at home seem to enjoy the greatest success."

Interviews by Jason Cowley

AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS IS HORRIBLE

Name: Lucy Shilton, 11
School: Shenfield School, Essex (mixed comprehensive). Year 7
Homework: 9 hours/week
"My first reaction was 'Yuk, this is horrible'. I wish we'd done some more homework at my primary school."

Janet Shilton, (mother). "Her homework routine is

disciplined: I am responsible for ensuring that she completes her tasks. One problem with switching the focus on to parents is that you are frightened of interfering with your child's homework. You are also apprehensive as to whether you will actually be able to answer their questions, especially if you aren't academic yourself."

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

Paintings by Gary Hume and Fiona Rae offer an illuminating contrast at the Saatchi Gallery
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



COMEDY

Vegetable passion: John Hegley goes *Dancing with Potatoes* for six nights at the Bloomsbury
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



CABARET

Fascinating Aida bring their mixture of humour and harmony to the Vaudeville Theatre
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



THEATRE

Lindsay Duncan stars as Pinter's *The Homecoming* goes on stage at the Lyttelton
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

Am I the only one to be a little disappointed at the eventual consensus which has delivered the belt of millennial money to an already engorged South East of England? I am sorry to be a spoilsport but I am from the North. Which also matters literally in this case because we are talking about Greenwich. If a family of four from north Cumbria wanted to go to the mega-ten Metrolink, it would cost about three days and £300 at least. Most wouldn't make the journey.

I admire the tenacity of Simon Jenkins and his board. I admire the wizardry of Richard Rogers and the strategy of the Greenwich cabal which sees this as a once-for-all clean-up and set-up of the area for the 21st century. However, the scheme I propose is more just and more fun than the current Greenwich-or-bust scenario. Perhaps a glitch will yet be revealed (not such a subversive thought — how much will the thing really cost?) and this

could let in the rest of Britain and let the whole island take off. I know that the Great Exhibition and the Festival of Britain were staged in London and it is our capital, but times have changed. All over Britain there is great energy going into cities which are speaking out and ought to be heard. This is the opportunity to show off our variousness and not merely to emphasise once again the undoubted truth that London is a great world city.



MELVYN BRAGG

would benefit from being cleaned up. But there is Post-Industrial Trauma in city landscapes all over Britain and they, too, need cleaning up. We are told the Greenwich venture would bring more tourists to London but how about bringing more tourists to the ten other cities? If one wanted a little fun, each of the ten could take something from one of the past ten centuries and use it as a launch pad for their spend. Southampton, for instance, could take the Norman invasion; Manchester the first Industrial Revolution; Bristol, our first century of commercial colonisation.

There is something too predictable about reacting to the millennium by plunking yet another building in London and, rather ironic that it is being put next to such a magnificent set of buildings, some of which are being flogged off.

Many cities in this country have had a hard time of it recently with the termination of so many skilled and labour-intensive industries. All over the country people have been fighting to regroup and ignore the blighted landscapes of their past with its dream of everlasting employment.

Why is London winning all the prizes?

This is his life

THE appearance of Michael Aspel and his Big Red Book is the sort of cheap thrill a critic scarcely dare hope for in the course of duty. But there they were, just as Julian Bream was about to break into a Villa-Lobos encore at the end of a concert to celebrate 50 years of professional life.

CONCERT Julian Bream Queen Elizabeth Hall

for an instrument lacking both the resonance and the sustaining power of the cello, but Bream's unbroken legato and subtle playing over the rose made it seem effortless. Takemitsu's *In the Woods*, a suite of three pieces, was as highly distilled as Walton's *Five Bagatelles* were flamboyant. Neither Granados's *Danzas españolas* nor Bartók's *Petite Suite* was written for the guitar. While the Bartók, Bream's transcription of six pieces from the *44 Duos* for two violins, seemed stiff-jointed, the Granados was an intriguing reincarnation of music originally intended to evoke the guitar through the voice of the piano.

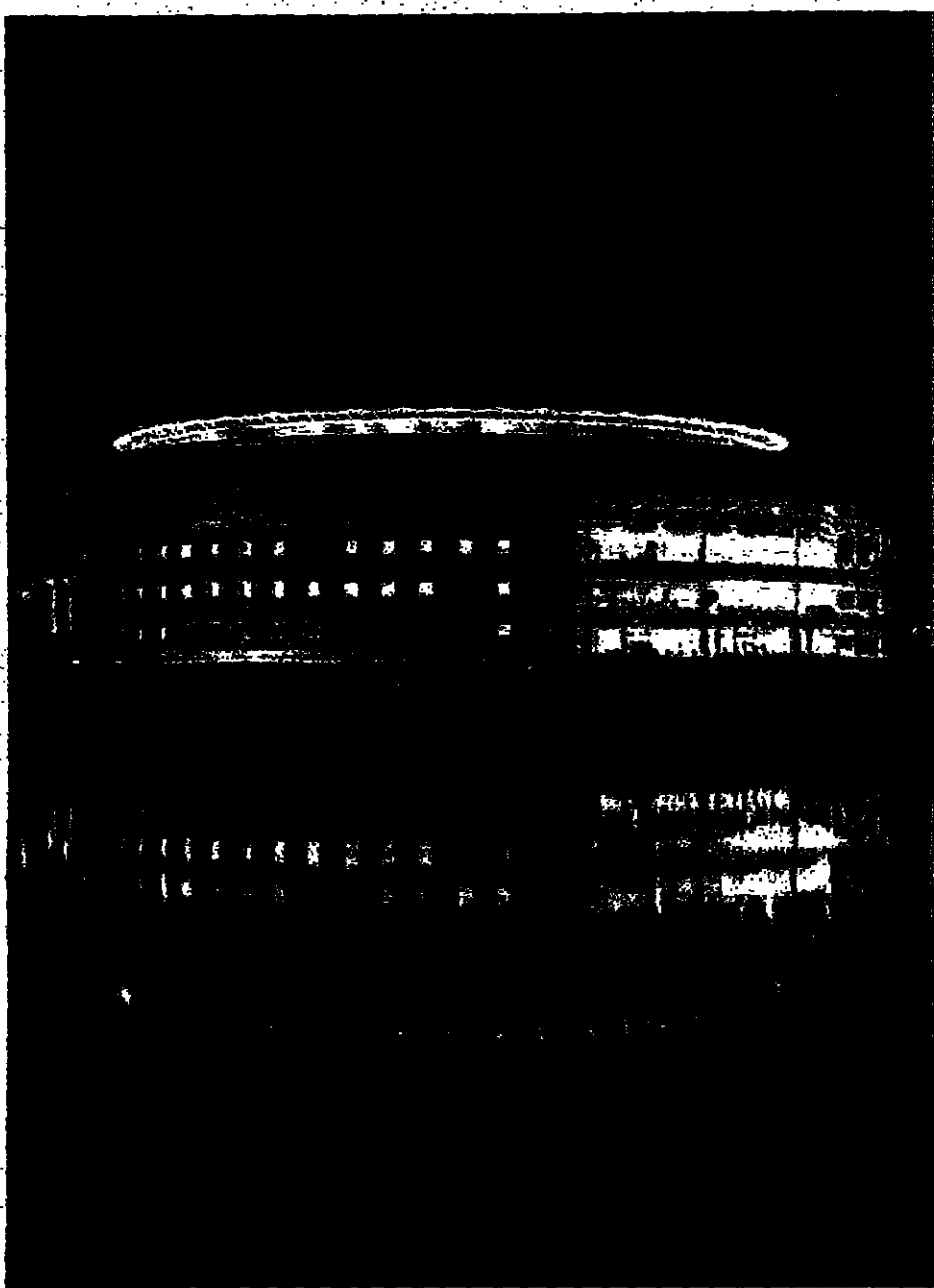
Sweet music to Belfast ears

A sense of passage, from one age of Belfast to another, was palpable when the city's sparkling new £32 million concert hall opened with a gala show on Friday evening. The Waterfront Hall rises on the banks of the River Lagan, in a part of the city where the skyline was formerly dominated by Belfast's most eloquent monuments, the stern, mustard shipbuilding cranes marked H&W.

Luke Clancy on the opening of a new £32m concert hall for Belfast

The building's cityside facade is extended into a shining, three-storey, curved crystal facade with a Portland stone finish on the entrance and upper courses, while on the river side, the finish is in red brick, punctured with ranks of compact, square windows.

tered, while also maintaining a sense of labyrinthine mystery, with plunging stairwells and viewing platforms dotting the upper storeys. The finish is white, with steel, wood and glass — as the signature materials.



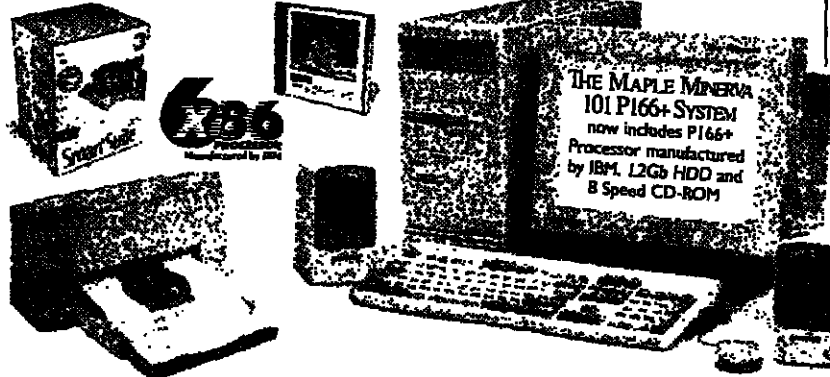
Belfast's Waterfront Hall: "It resembles a fresh Modernist take on the Albert Hall"

Vapours and Capers, a piece studded with well-loved Irish tunes such as *Molly Malone*, *The Galway Races* and, of course, *Danny Boy*.

Douglas directed his encore a little more deliberately towards the crowd, and closed with a solo piano rendition of the evening's most popular tune. It was certainly not the last time that *Danny Boy* would drift through the Waterfront Hall.

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Give chief officers full authority

Michael Howard explains the reasoning behind the Police Bill

The provisions in the Police Bill which will be debated in the Lords today have properly received a great deal of attention. But much of the debate has been based on a misunderstanding of the nature of the police operations covered by the Bill, their importance in the fight against serious crime, and the extent to which police would be inhibited in fighting it if proposals by Labour and the Liberal Democrats were accepted.

The police have been undertaking such operations for decades with considerable success and without giving rise to complaints. Over the past 30 or 40 years, the need to exploit modern surveillance techniques has grown as the threat from organised crime has developed. The police have made it clear that they cannot effectively combat the criminal gangs who engage in terrorism, major drug-trafficking, armed robbery, kidnapping and so on unless they can take advantage of a range of techniques.

Up to now these operations have had no statutory authority. Administrative guidelines were issued in 1977 and strengthened in 1984. Under these guidelines, intrusive surveillance must be a last resort, when other methods have failed or are believed likely to fail. But we recognise that authorisation of these operations should be put on a statutory basis, with close and effective judicial scrutiny of the use of these techniques.

This is what the Police Bill provides. It creates the new post of surveillance commissioner, who will be a former or serving High Court judge and who will review authorisations and investigate complaints. Chief constables can now be asked to appear in court to justify their decisions, and a number have been cross-examined. The new Bill retains this means of calling chief officers to account, and adds the commissioner's scrutiny, in which he will identify any chief constable who has used his powers improperly.

The Bill does not relax the existing guidelines. It is simply wrong to suggest that it authorises the police to eavesdrop on the private conversations of anyone who speaks to a lawyer, journalist or doctor. Surveillance may be authorised only if it is necessary to prevent serious crime, and may be used only against those engaged in such crime. A Times leader of January 18 suggested that whether judicial scrutiny should take place before or after the authorisation of such operations depends upon whether prior authorisation would undermine the Bill's effectiveness. The argument depends upon a full understanding of the nature and purpose of intrusive surveillance. The investigation of serious and organised crime requires techniques such as recording conversations of criminals in public places, placing tracking devices on vehicles and sometimes entering property such as garages and warehouses, and, more rarely, residential homes. New information may suddenly send a complex investigation in a different direction. It may be vital to the success of an investigation to track the movements of a vehicle or to

monitor a conversation. Weighing up the merits of different courses of action and being able to act decisively may make the difference between success and failure, or even life or death.

These are operational judgments which only very senior police officers are qualified to make. They have the experience and training to make such decisions. They have detailed knowledge of the investigation and the methods previously tried, and they know the risk to the public or to individuals if surveillance is not attempted. As at least one judge has acknowledged, it is impossible for a judge to put himself fairly in the chief constable's shoes.

Some commentators have argued for prior judicial authorisation by making a comparison with the system for obtaining search warrants. But the comparison is false. Unlike operations under the new Bill, search warrants are executed with the full knowledge of those under investigation. The purpose is to obtain evidence for possible criminal proceedings. That is properly a matter for the courts. By contrast, intrusive surveillance is covert. And a delay in making a decision or withholding of authority could jeopardise a whole investigation.

And this is why operational decisions must remain with the police. Their very nature means that prior judicial authorisation of intrusive surveillance would inhibit the effectiveness of operations. I am not prepared to take that risk. It seems the opposition parties are.

The Liberal Democrat proposals would mean judges taking operational decisions. That is not their role. Under Labour's proposals, the commissioner would be both authorising operations and investigating complaints arising from them. He would have to second-guess the chief constable and substitute his own judgment. Neither the circuit judge nor the commissioner could be called upon by the court to justify his decision in any resulting prosecution. This crucial accountability would disappear under the Opposition's amendments.

The Government has itself proposed a number of changes to the Bill to strengthen the judicial scrutiny. These will require all authorisations to be notified to the commissioner as soon as reasonably practicable. In many cases, such as those infringing legal, journalistic or medical confidentiality, the commissioner will be under a statutory duty to review the authorisation within 48 hours. He will have power to quash any authorisation that was not properly given, and to order the destruction of information obtained. To ensure that the review process is speedy and thorough, we will be providing for more than one commissioner.

I believe that our proposals strike the right balance between protecting civil liberties and giving the police the tools they need. The Chief Constable of Merseyside has said: "Any changes to current proposals will cause serious damage to our capacity to combat serious crime." We ignore such concerns at our peril.

The author is the Home Secretary.

In asset management as in football, payment is by results, so teams cannot afford to lose top scorers

Why Nicola Horlick was underpaid

Last week it was easy to confuse the fund management and football businesses. Perhaps the big fund managers ought to offer new contracts to their star performers that would allow transfer fees, rather than having to bombard them with guaranteed bonuses. At the moment, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, having lost Nicola Horlick in a row that might have surprised even Tottenham Hotspur, is desperately in need of a replacement striker. At least billions of pounds of funds under management may drift away unless they find a good one. What would Carol Galley, the Eric Cantona of the Mercury Asset Management investment team, be worth to them? Certainly more than the £15 million Newcastle United paid for Alan Shearer.

Both Nicola Horlick and Carol Galley were trained in that noble academy of the modern city, the old S.G. Warburg. What would Siegmund Warburg, unquestionably the greatest banker in the London of the past 50 years, have made of the latest events? He would not have approved. For him banking was a private discipline. He did not seek publicity for himself, though he knew how to use the press to benefit his clients. He would have been horrified to see a highly paid manager storm across Europe to make a personal appeal in Frankfurt. He would have disliked it all the more because his own training was in traditional German high banking, and the Deutsche Bank was one of his closest allies in the post-war world. But Siegmund Warburg's banking era has gone: he is himself long since dead; his bank has been bought by the Swiss; all that remains intact of his creation and in British hands is Mercury Asset Management, which he never foresaw growing to anything like its present eminence. There his spirit is still revered.

By Siegmund Warburg's standards, which were exacting, Nicola Horlick's fault has been the failure to control her ego. He accepted that a dramatic sense of one's own persona

was an unavoidable part of a public career; he would have allowed for it in politicians, in actors, in journalists, in barristers — though no one wants an egotistical solicitor — and in a certain kind of entrepreneur. He knew that there were business tycoons with egos like Robert Maxwell's, though he did not always choose to act for them. He did not see banking — least of all his own bank — as an arena for the public display of personality.

This was the austere tradition in which Carol Galley and Nicola Horlick were both raised, though Nicola Horlick joined Mercury Asset Management after Siegmund Warburg's time. Carol Galley has stuck to this tradition of privacy; she did not relish the publicity which fell on her during the Granada-Forte battle. Nicola Horlick, by taking her case to the press, has broken the tribal taboos.

Women are often extremely good at fund management, as these two undoubtedly are. It is now perhaps the highest-paid profession for women: their salaries and bonuses may be a multiple of those even of the top women barristers. When one considers the risks she was taking with her career, what can have induced Nicola Horlick to go public in her battle with the powers in Morgan Grenfell? After all, the public cannot force the bank to give her back her much-cherished job.

Some allowance must be made for the fact that she is a woman, not because women in business are more emotional than men, but because women working in a male environment do have to fight their corner

harder. Margaret Thatcher is an obvious example. Many men get to the top in their professions by being "good chaps" and easy for other men to get on with; no woman ever gets to the top by being a good chap. Nicola Horlick would never have held her job if she had not fought harder for it than the men who might otherwise have glided into it. Women are at best country members of the great male clubs, of the City, of the House of Commons. The insider's way of achieving their ob-

William Rees-Mogg

jectives is not often open to them. There had also been the Peter Young affair, which cost Morgan Grenfell £200 million in compensation, and a serious loss of prestige. Rightly or wrongly, Keith Percy, who had been Nicola Horlick's immediate superior and supporter, was held partly responsible for the failure to supervise Young and was disposed of. Robert Smith, her new boss, was not so sympathetic, though he seems to have recognised at first that Mrs Horlick was a rising star. These changes make people uneasy; there was unease running through Morgan Grenfell, an unease that spread to rumours of people leaving, possibly in a group. The bank itself has

been resented as a predator in attracting successful fund managers from other firms. It can be said of Morgan Grenfell, "Poach not that ye be not poached".

It must also have been difficult for everyone that the ultimate power lay not in London but in Frankfurt. The German bankers themselves must be bemused by the difficulties that are now arising in their very successful London subsidiary. The cultural gap between Frankfurt and London is a good deal wider than the gap between London and New York. An American bank might have found it easier to understand what was happening and to make an effective response.

Modern fund management is a very large business which is wholly dependent on the skills and contacts of a small leading group of successful fund managers. These successful fund managers need to combine investment skills — their funds must out-perform their rivals — with management skills and the ability to farm good relationships with the pension funds for which they are working. These skills, taken individually, are quite rare. In combination they are very rare indeed. One can go back to the question of how much Carol Galley is worth to Mercury Asset Management. She is at present its striker: she adds the extra zest which has helped to give Mercury the edge in the market. Mercury has more than £80 billion under management. Without her contribution that could well have been 10 per cent less than it is. Eight billion pounds of funds under management has a capital value of about

£250 million to the shareholders. For this Carol Galley receives, like Nicola Horlick, an income of £1 million or so including bonuses.

By football standards, or by ordinary business standards, these £1 million women stars are not only cheap at the price, but are absurdly underpaid. It is never safe to pay much less than a star asset is worth to the business. Either Nicola Horlick was adding a significant positive gain to the performance of Morgan Grenfell funds, or she should not have had her job in the first place. Apparently she had £4 billion of funds under her personal management, of the bank's total of £50 billion under management. Even if one attributes only 5 per cent of the capital value of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management to her personal contribution, that would still be £75 million. She was almost certainly worth a great deal more to the bank than they were paying her, even though they were paying her a lot. That sort of disparity always creates tensions.

In fund management most of the players can only perform as well as or rather less well than the relevant index. Such players are interchangeable and readily replaceable. There are a few star players whose investment performance actually beats the competition; they regularly get the ball into the net. They are worth their weight in gold. Around their personal skills, and their ability to earn large bonuses for themselves, their teams and their bosses, very large businesses can be and have been built. These businesses are not old-fashioned banking, or even old-fashioned fund management businesses. Those film studios that tried to handle the stars of Hollywood as though they were so many junior accountants saved the petty cash but lost the box office. Football clubs without goal-scorers lose matches. So long as Nicola Horlick's funds were performing successfully Morgan Grenfell's job was to keep her happy. In that job it has manifestly failed.

Troubles for the victors

As well as facing the people, says Peter Riddell, the parties must face the issues

The next government will squeeze the public sector, increase the proportion of public services that are privately financed and be forced to raise taxes. I write the next government, because this will happen whoever wins the election. It has little to do with manifesto pledges. The constraints and options are already clear from the Treasury's Red Book, the economic and fiscal projections published with the Budget eight weeks ago. These figures will not only define the Cabinet's discussion of the Tory manifesto at Chequers a week today but will this afternoon be accepted by Gordon Brown as providing the overall spending framework for the first two years of a Labour government.

That is why Labour's latest propaganda campaign about a Tory fifth term — centred upon scaremongering allegations about VAT on food and a rump NHS — is so irresponsible. Of course there are differences between the parties in their attitudes to the role of the State, but the Labour campaign debases political debate by ignoring the constraints that will be common to any government.

The Tories have said little so far on what they would do in a fifth term. But there is no real mystery: there hardly could be after 18 years in office. Budgetary constraints will remain tight. Many of the assumptions on public spending in the Budget were over-optimistic, as last week's report from the cross-party Treasury committee stressed. But any post-election cuts in spending and tax rises should be much less than in 1992-94. So we would be likely to see moves towards the abolition of capital gains and inheritance taxes and, towards the end of the Parlia-



ment, income tax cut to 20p, probably offsetting increases in other taxes on consumers and companies.

Much has been made of a likely rightward shift in the Tory parliamentary party. A new report, *The Conservatives after the Election*, from Rowland Public Affairs, notes that while half the Tory MPs rejoining are on the Left, with just a quarter on the Right, half the candidates in winnable seats are on the Right and less than a quarter are on the Left. Such estimates are inevitably imprecise, not least because MPs change their views. This shift matters far more with regard to Europe than domestically, where there is broad consensus within the party. The main constraint in the current Parliament has not been the balance of the Tory party but its dwindling Commons majority. Given the perhaps heroic assump-

tion of a comfortable Commons majority, a re-elected Tory government would carry on with privatisation — the Royal Mail, London Underground and a host of medium-sized and smaller public bodies — and with increasing private provision of publicly financed services. Under the umbrella of the Private Finance Initiative, the Government is already planning privately developed and run hospitals within the NHS as well as GP services provided by private sector organisations, as in the current Bill on primary healthcare. On the same lines, the Government will shortly propose allowing the private sector and voluntary bodies to bid for social services now provided by local authorities. In education, there would

be more grammar schools, more selection and more testing, but also probably private-sector competition within the sector financed by the taxpayer. This would be akin to the successful American experiment of charter schools set up by teachers and parents, which operate within the state sector but are independent.

The biggest challenge would be welfare reform. Peter Lilley has already done a lot to slow the rate of growth of social security spending and has indicated likely ways ahead in various pilot schemes on helping the long-term unemployed and single mothers back to work. For instance, the private sector is now being involved and being paid by results in terms of numbers returning to work. There is a new emphasis on requiring people to take jobs or to train in return for benefit.

Labour objects to many of these proposals, but would face the same spending dilemmas. Gordon Brown will take Labour's approach an important step forward today by saying that a new government would broadly accept the already announced spending totals for two years ahead, not just one. This is to prevent a sudden early rise in spending and to allow time for a comprehensive review of spending plans to assess the scope for the phased reallocation of budgets within and between departments. Mr Brown will argue that not all public policies require extra government spending: some involve setting standards and some involve partnerships with the private sector. However, business is wary that setting standards via, for example the minimum wage and other regulations may represent an indirect form of taxation. Partnership involves accepting private financing of public services — for instance, for a second pension in addition to the basic state one, and the replacement of grants by loans in higher education.

The doubts about a Blair or a re-elected Major government are very different, but both relate to the characters of their respective parties. Mr Brown's aims are correct, and the Shadow Cabinet has endorsed a review of spending priorities, but how many shadow spokesmen, let alone other Labour MPs, really understand, let alone accept, the implications of changing the balance of public and private provision of welfare services? The roots and heart of Labour remain in the public sector.

A re-elected Conservative government would not face such serious internal problems over public spending. Its weakness would be its deep-seated divisions and incoherence over Europe, which John Major has occasionally contained but never mastered. A victorious Mr Major would have, and deserve, a period of triumph, but that would not resolve his party's malaise. Indeed some on the Tory Right would regard an election victory as a setback to their aims. The case against re-election of Mr Major's Government has less to do with its likely policies than with the unstable state of the Tory party.

Baton charge

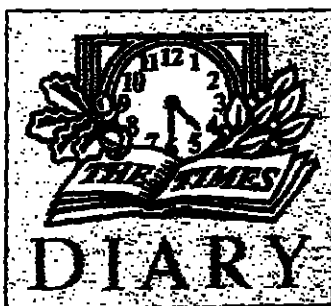
MUSICAL as well as physical changes are imminent for the Royal Opera House, with talk that Bernard Haitink, the highly respected musical director, will soon be stepping down. Haitink is nearing 70, and has had nearly nine years in the post, so when the Opera House closes for two years of renovations this summer, he may consider it an appropriate moment to make way for new blood. Lord Chadlington, the chairman of the Opera House board, has been urging Haitink to stay, but the maestro has yet to give his reply.

What is rattling the woodwind is the candidate looming as Haitink's likely replacement: John Eliot Gardiner, the biggest banana in the "early music" fruitbowl. He recently conducted Massenet's *Chérubin* at the Opera House, but is not felt to be popular with the orchestra. Would he, they ask, be up to conducting the Wagner and Verdi staples? His greatest asset is his knack for publicity and the fact that he has managed to sell even

the unlikelyst of recordings by the muckload. "Nothing has been decided" was all the Opera House would say. Gardiner's strongest rivals are Daniele Gatti, the former associate musical director at the House, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Mark



"I'm on a sabbatical"



Elder, a great success at the Coliseum, and the dashing maestro Valery Gergiev, currently the most popular runner, the musical director at the Kirov Opera.

Whoever it may be faces a hard job in the immediate future, keeping a notoriously fractious company together for two years on the road, far from the swag and crushed velvet of their Covent Garden home.

Kennel club

THE STRAY DOG that was adopted by the journalists who camped outside the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima will not be homeless when the long hostage crisis is

over. The Friends of Animals Association is determined to find a Peruvian home for the beast. "He is not just the centre of attraction at the moment. He is a living thing," says Maria de Garcia, a member of the organisation, who is worried that once the crisis is resolved the animal will be forgotten.

The black-and-white terrier mix has been named "Cerpa" after the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement leader Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, who had led the bold attack on the Ambassador's residence on December 17 last year. Cerpa has become fond of local and foreign journalists, not least because they have been feeding him vast amounts of takeaway pizza and Japanese food over the past four weeks.

As Labour and the Tories spent much of last week in frantic talks to save the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition, one of the nine members of the Millennium Commission was conspicuous by his absence. He was Michael Montague, the businessman and former chairman of the English Tourist Board, who is Labour's sole representative on the commission. Throughout the increasingly desperate late-

night meetings he was lapping up the sunshine in Hawaii.

Full blast

SO TAKEN was Shirley Bassey, the perennial songbird from Tiger Bay, with the acoustics in the Palace of Westminster that she decided to test them properly. Walking through the central lobby after a dinner recently with Sir Ray Powell, MP for Ogmore, she com-



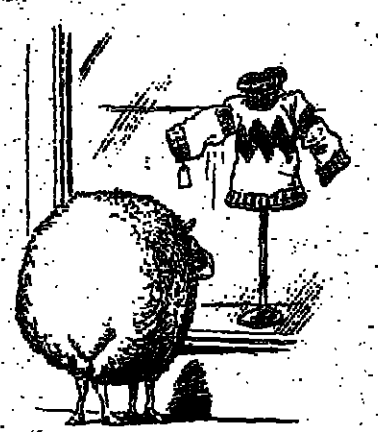
Bringing the House down

mented that the acoustics seemed to be good and — not a being shy girl — promptly belted out two numbers at the top of her voice. "By God, she has a fine pair of lungs," marvelled one old buffer who stopped to listen.

As the end of the month approaches, those who have given up alcohol for January are anticipating the first refreshing draughts of wine. But not the iron-willed Hartlepool MP, Peter Mandelson. He is forwarding alcohol until after the general election, to keep his wits about him during this momentous time.

New ewe

WILLIE RUSHTON is naturally much missed at *The Literary Review*, where he was the cover cartoonist. But his successor has already decided what he will be doing for his first magazine front. Chris Riddell, the political cartoonist, will be taking as his subject Lord Byron — whose sexual adventures are analysed in a new biography, which debates whether Byron was actually a sexual hero or a wimp.



"Do not consider your possessions to be yours alone" — from Riddell's *Buddhism for Sheep*

Riddell is very partial to drawing sheep. His last book was a useful guide called *Buddhism for Sheep*. "Sheep seeking enlightenment should definitely consult this book," he advises. His next book is likely to be a guide to Feng Shui — the Chinese art of arranging interiors. Also for sheep.



THE EDUCATION VOTE

Why political campaigners mark the classroom so high

Today we publish the first of our "Ballot 97" guides to election issues. These are designed to peel away the party propaganda and analyse as scrupulously as possible the record and the promises in every area of policy. Each week until polling day, our team of *Times* writers will continue this audit, bringing the best of their expertise to bear on the claims, the gloss and the facts. By the end of the long campaign, as we promised last Friday, we hope that readers of *The Times* will be the best equipped in Britain for delivering judgment on their elected rulers.

We begin the series on page 6 today with education, likely to be one of the election campaign's hottest political footballs. Because of its impact on the economy, education is important to every voter. But a very high proportion are also directly involved because they themselves, their children or their grandchildren are at school, college or university. When asked what issue will be very important in deciding their allegiance, voters cite education second only to health.

As a public service, education is a particularly frustrating issue for parents and grandparents. The difference in quality between the state and private sectors is so great, except at the very top end of the state sector, that many of those who can afford to send their children to private schools tend to do so. The financial impact upon them is enormous. Unlike health, where people can choose to pay the occasional sum for private treatment, education is an all or nothing service. If parents choose the private route, they commit themselves to many thousands of pounds a year for up to 14 years.

Some feel that they are doing so under duress; they would happily switch to the state sector if only it were good enough. The savings they could make would dwarf any tax cut, so the prize to any party which

managed to make state schools as good as they are in Germany could be glittering.

It is not as if the Government has not tried. The Tories can be accused of coming to education late; their first big reform Bill did not reach the statute book until 1988. But since then there has been a raft of measures designed to raise standards. From the introduction of the national curriculum, through testing, league tables and opting out, the idea has been to put pressure on schools to introduce more academic rigour.

For pupils near the top of the ability range, these reforms seem to have made a difference, though still not enough for some parents. More pupils now go to university, pass A levels and gain five or more good GCSEs than five years ago. Even allowing for a degree of grade inflation, this is some achievement. The gap between the best and the rest is still, however, far too wide.

In every subject, the range of achievement between the best and least able children is greater in Britain than elsewhere. That is why issues such as homework have political potency. As our features on pages 16 and 17 illustrate, both pupils and parents are ambivalent about the practice. But homework does help to show teachers what children have grasped. And it delivers results. A study by the University of Illinois has found that pupils who had done no homework could rise from the middle of their age group to the top third by working out of school.

In a modern economy which has fewer and fewer jobs for unqualified workers any policy that enables poor performers to catch up must be worth adopting. Labour's call for compulsory homework may sound punitive and centralist. But it seems to have caught the spirit of the times. Too many parents feel that their children are not achieving their potential at state schools. To judge by the polls, the Tories have yet to convince them that their solutions are enough.

SPEAK OUT FOR BUSINESS

Labour's industrial policies must not go unchallenged

Is all the fuss made in Britain about flexible labour markets just a political diversion? Are businessmen really indifferent to minimum wages, state interference in employment conditions and the whole European "social partnership" agenda of labour regulations and government-mandated trade union powers? This will be the impression conveyed by Tony Blair tomorrow morning, when he speaks at the launch of a supposedly non-partisan "manifesto for British business", signed by several prominent industrial leaders, including the chief executives of GEC, Legal & General and British Aerospace.

To the surprise of the conference participants and the mild embarrassment of its organisers, Mr Blair will be followed immediately by a previously uninvited speaker, Michael Heseltine. The Deputy Prime Minister's decision to invite himself into the lion's den and deliver a keynote rebuttal to Mr Blair's keynote speech deserves full marks.

In terms of political tactics, Mr Heseltine is obviously trying to upstage Mr Blair at a media event carefully orchestrated to convey the impression that business now stands four-square behind Labour. But Mr Heseltine's intervention should be seen as more than a short-term spoiler. It marks a recognition that Ministers will have to work harder than ever to emphasise the coherence of their policies on business, employment and economic growth. Unless the Tories make continuous efforts to raise their voices and draw attention to the successes of the industrial policies of the past 17 years, Labour's natural preference for the social chapter, the minimum wage and the corporatist economic model could go unanswered.

A good example of the challenge the Tories now face was last week's propaganda coup

for Labour, when Ford's decision to stop production at Halewood of its poorly performing Escort model was widely seen as evidence that the relative ease of hiring and firing workers in Britain was destroying jobs. This is a specious argument, which almost no serious economists or businessmen in Britain or even in Europe, would endorse. Even on the Centre-Left it is now broadly accepted that the jobs created by allowing flexible employment far outweigh the jobs lost by restraining the employer's right to manage the workforce. The jobs "saved" by companies that are forced to act against their own business interests are rarely preserved for long.

Most British businessmen understand such arguments very well, but the Tories may no longer be able to rely on them as vocal cheerleaders. Businessmen still strongly support the free-market reforms introduced by Margaret Thatcher in 1979. They see no advantages and many potential perils in joining the social chapter. They oppose minimum wages unless they are set at such low levels as to have almost no effect. But business are first and foremost interested in doing business — and that includes doing business with whichever Party is in power.

This is especially true of the leaders of large companies which depend on public orders, benefit from special tax concessions or function under close government and European regulation — precisely the sort of companies prominent in Labour's list of the good and the great. The widespread conviction that Mr Blair will probably be the next Prime Minister means that many of the natural spokesmen for pro-business, free-market policies have recently become tongue-tied. In the coming months, Mr Heseltine will have to speak even more frequently and loudly than usual.

HENRY'S HOARD

When furs and lace were more than luxuries

We should not be surprised that Henry VIII, that rumbustious and expansive radical monarch, had wardrobes full of darts, tennis balls and toothpicks. Patient list-makers led by Dr David Starkey of the London School of Economics are on the brink of publishing the inventory of Henry's household at the time of his death; 100,000 items right down to the incomplete chess set which has been a staple item in every English home since that era. But the opulence and extent of the possessions need not strike us as at all odd.

Two glances at contemporary fashion will set Henry's hoard in perspective. If a global television audience is fascinated by Ruby Wax's investigation into the contents of the Duchess of York's fridge, we should remember that preoccupation with royal trivia has a long pedigree. A quick look at last week's newspapers also displays an enduring royal habit of taking care of the image. Diana, Princess of Wales, with an experienced feel for the media, ensured that every photograph which appeared of her during her trip to Angola showed her in working clothes, equipped with pen, serious expression or folders of documents. The symbols conveyed a message: this person means business.

Outward signs of grandeur, power and wealth mattered even more to Henry VIII. His spin-doctors might have claimed, the

divine right of kings, but there were foreign powers, fractious nobles and the grandees of the Church to massage all the same. With no newspapers and no television, a sovereign's political image was boosted or damaged by his appearance and immediate surroundings. In an age when power and authority could be conveyed only by word of mouth, the trappings of office or royalty were equipment essential to making the magic work. Cardinal Wolsey, as he commuted to work from one end of Hampton Court Palace to the other, was preceded as he walked by others who solemnly carried the Great Seal of England, his cardinal's hat, a pair of silver crosses and two silver pillars.

Kings like Henry fluffed up their royal plumage to achieve carefully targeted diplomatic ends. The meeting with Francis I of France at the Field of the Cloth of Gold was one of the most sumptuous picture-opportunities of its age. Five thousand people attended Henry and his Queen; six thousand built tents and pavilions on a scale which would put the Millennium Commission to shame. But this conspicuous consumption had a point: to make Spain worry that it might soon face an Anglo-French alliance. It worked. As a royal visit or a deftly timed soundbite may be part of modern statecraft, so jewellery, furs and lace were not mere luxuries to Tudor kings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Paying a just price for higher fees in the civil courts

From Mr Francis Macleod Matthews

Sir, It was disappointing to see such a strident attack by Sir Richard Scott on the civil court fee increases (report, January 14). These increases were introduced, at least partly, at the suggestion of the Bar and the Law Society, through the Heilbrunn committee appointed in 1992 to look at ways in which civil justice could be improved.

It is unlikely that these groups, traditionally seen as self-interested, would have made a proposal that would deny access to justice to significant numbers of their clients. In fact there are strong arguments in favour of a system under which the user pays for the administrative cost of the civil courts.

Under the English system the unsuccessful party already bears the costs of the other party to the litigation. This has long been thought fair because it is the unsuccessful party who caused them to be incurred. Under the new system, court fees will be recoverable from the unsuccessful party, so this is at most a modest extension of the same principle. Moreover, in contested cases, the court fees pale into insignificance by comparison with lawyers' costs.

At present, irrespective of their means or the merits of their arguments, litigants are subsidised by taxpayers: they do not pay the full cost of the court administration. If litigation costs are to be subsidised, it is only right that the subsidy should be targeted at those who lack means and

whose cases appear to have merit. Legal aid will bear court costs where those criteria are met.

Yours etc,
FRANCIS MACLEOD MATTHEWS,
12 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,
January 14.

From Mr A. A. S. Zuckerman

Sir, Sir Richard Scott, a prominent judge and head of the civil justice system, protests over higher court fees, saying: "Access to justice requires that justice should be reasonably accessible without excessive cost. Civil proceedings are already very expensive." But court fees are insignificant, in size and in their effect on access to justice, compared with lawyers' fees.

Lawyers charge their clients by the hour, without limit and regardless of the outcome of the case. As a result the cost of litigation in England is exorbitant, disproportionate and unpredictable. A survey has revealed that in nearly a third of the cases with a value of less than £12,500 the cost to one party alone is between £10,000 and £20,000; costs in excess of £20,000 were noted in nearly a further tenth of the sample.

We have reached, therefore, the situation where only either the very rich or that shrinking proportion of the poor which the State can still afford to support with legal aid have access to justice.

For the rest of us, taking our griev-

ances to court is simply out of reach. Curiously, judges hardly ever protest about this much more serious constraint on access to justice.

I, for one, would not much mind paying the extra £100 in court fees, to which Sir Richard objects, if, by exerting greater control over litigation, the judge could limit the amount of litigious work done by lawyers and reduce by a few thousand my liability to lawyers' fees: which aim is part of the Lord Chancellor's strategy.

Yours sincerely,
ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN
(Fellow in Law),
University College, Oxford,
January 14.

From Mr Bruce Cairns

Sir, I foresee another serious consequence of the rises in court fees. Where a civil litigant is legally aided, the court fees are paid by the Legal Aid Fund. There will therefore soon be a significant increase in legal aid expenditure as a direct result of the Lord Chancellor's action.

Can we assume that this will be brought to the attention of the public the next time he (or the next Lord Chancellor) bemoans the high cost of providing legal aid?

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE CAIRNS,
Morton Fisher (solicitors),
Bank House,
12-13 The Foregate, Worcester,
January 14.

Doctors and Police Bill

From the Chairman of the General Medical Services Committee, BMA, and others

Sir, The medical profession supports the fight against serious crime. But the Police Bill (letters, January 8, 10, 14, 18) gives the police statutory powers to break into medical premises, install listening devices and intercept and monitor telephone conversations between doctors and their patients.

Such infringements of the confidential relationship between doctors and their patients could be justified only in the rarest circumstances. They must be subject to the most stringent controls, in relation not only to authorisation but also to the disposal of material which will inevitably be gathered about patients wholly innocent of any connection with serious crime. The Government must, as a matter of urgency, explain how these issues are to be addressed.

Yours faithfully,
IAN G. BOGLE,
Chairman, General Medical Services Committee, BMA,
NORMAN BROWSE
(Chairman, Joint Consultants Committee),
DONALD IRVINE
(President, General Medical Council),
JAMES N. JOHNSON
(Chairman, Central Consultants and Specialists Committee, BMA),
A. W. MACARA
(Chairman of Council, BMA),
NAREN PATEL
(Chairman, Academy of Royal Colleges),
KEITH PETERS
(Chairman, Council of Deans of UK Medical Schools and Faculties),
LESLIE TURNBERG
(Chairman, Specialist Training Authority),
British Medical Association,
BMA House, Tavistock Square, WCI,
January 17.

Lyceum discovery

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, In your coverage of the latest archaeological discovery in Athens (reports and leading article, January 16), Aristotle's Lyceum is described as "the first university" and "the forerunner of the modern university" which "started the great tradition of a community of scholars, standing on the intellectual shoulders and carrying on the work of their great predecessor".

Such an honour — if that is what it is — surely belongs to Plato's Academy, which was founded fifty years earlier and which Aristotle himself attended for twenty years before founding his own university.

Yours etc,
NICOLAS WALTER,
88 Islington High Street, N1,
January 16.

Labour and schools

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, The letters you published on January 16 criticising Labour local government give a rather distorted view of reality. The fact is that many of the innovations which the Government has adopted were first tried out in Labour authorities.

Baseline assessment and targets have been working successfully in Birmingham for several years. Labour authorities like Croydon and Hammersmith and Fulham have acted promptly to turn failing schools around. Camden gets far better exam results in London than the Tory flagships of Wandsworth and Westminster. Authorities such as Newcastle and Lewisham are leading the way in improving inner-city schools.

The Government has removed many local education authority powers to act, yet then accuses them of failing to do so. However, there are some

Expanding cost of private healthcare

From the Chief Executive of Frimley Park Hospital

Sir, William Rees-Mogg suggests "Closing the health and education gaps". January 13) that expansion of private healthcare must depend on governments.

The management of this hospital realised some years ago that private healthcare could come directly to the aid of the cash-strapped NHS. The granting of trust status enabled us to take matters into our own hands and build a private wing, which last year contributed £1 million in extra income to help care for NHS patients.

The problem for us and trusts like ours is not government inaction but hostile action by health insurers, who also have an interest in running private hospitals. Some discriminate against private wings in NHS hospitals and insist that, regardless of the wishes of patient or doctor, polytholders are treated in hospitals which the insurer owns or in which it has an interest.

It is, of course, a different story if the treatment does not go according to plan: the private hospital is only too grateful that the back-up facilities (such as intensive care) of the NHS are at hand.

It is time there was proper recognition that without the safety net of the NHS the cost of private healthcare would have to be a great deal higher.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MORRIS,
Chief Executive,
Frimley Park Hospital,
Portsmouth Road,
Frimley, Camberley, Surrey,
January 15.

From the Chief Executive of the Independent Healthcare Association

Sir, I strongly agree with William Rees-Mogg's view that greater use of private expertise and finance is needed across UK healthcare. The UK's independent health and social care sector is the only viable way forward for politicians of the Left and Right. After all, to push up taxes yet

further would undermine the UK's global competitiveness and result in even higher levels of poverty.

The independent health and social care sector employs 500,000 people. In addition to performing 20 per cent of the country's elective surgery, it provides 76 per cent of the nation's long-stay provision and is the tenth largest employer.

Yours sincerely,
B. F. HASSELL,
Chief Executive,
Independent Healthcare Association,
22 Little Russell Street, WCI,
January 14.

From Mr Malcolm Fellowes-Freeman

Sir, William Rees-Mogg is correct that there is a desperate shortage of hospice beds in Bristol but goes too far in suggesting that to get in your doctor must "sign a chit guaranteeing you will be dead within two weeks".

St Peter's concentrates on working in partnership with GPs to keep patients leading their own lives for as long as possible. The beds are used for short periods of intensive medical management before patients go home again, or to give their relatives a rest. Only just over half the patients admitted die within St Peter's, as our services are increasingly provided in patients' homes.

Rees-Mogg's overall point, that the Government should improve health provision by expanding the independent sector, is well made. St Peter's receives just one quarter of its running costs from the NHS. A few additional hospice beds in the city are provided by a private hospital but, without Budget measures to encourage giving or spending on healthcare, charities such as ours are struggling to meet the community's needs.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM FELLOWES-FREEMAN
(Chief Executive),
St Peter's Hospice,
St Agnes Avenue, Knowle, Bristol,
January 15.

Press and Prince

From the Editor of Debreit's Peetage

Sir, If the British press gave the Prince of Wales good works a fraction of the space it devotes to his private life there would be no need for the Prince's charity leaders to "just off the Prince of Wales's halo" (report, January 11).

When will the Prince receive the press coverage he needs and deserves?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES JIDD,
Editor, Debreit's Peetage,
73-77 Britannia Road, SW6.

Promotion of drugs

From Mr M. I. Webb

Sir, In the light of a recent radio interview ("Pop group banned over 'Ecstasy is safe' claim", report, January 17) should we now consider making the act of promoting the illegal use of drugs a punishable offence?

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE WEBB,
Smiddy House, Auchencrow,
Eyemouth, Berwickshire,
January 17.

From Mr Andrew Newton

Sir, The threat by the NUT to penalise children for attending private nursery schools (report, January 13) bodes ill for any future Labour government promising to introduce new union-free policies. It seems even worse than the direct action taken by unions during the Seventies, in that innocent children are being threatened for their parents' legal decision.

This attempt at bullying by a national union is evidence of the dangers of a monopoly even in the provision of education, and exemplifies the need to offer parents a choice of schools and teachers.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW NEWTON (Chairman, Social Security Committee),
The Bow Group,
92 Bishop's Bridge Road, W2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Disputed criteria for Oxbridge entry

From Dr C. F. Forsyth

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("In praise of the second class", January 15) criticises Oxbridge admissions, with which I have been closely involved for 14 years. Notwithstanding the regular, but increasingly implausible, protestations from the examining boards about the maintenance of standards, there are several applicants with three or more grades A at A level or tipped by their school to do that well for each Oxbridge place. Consequently, it is simply impossible for admissions tutors to do what Mr Jenkins says they do: adopt mechanistically meritocratic admissions policies in which examination performance is the only relevant criterion.

Today, as in the past, those responsible for admissions have to make judgments in which examination performance is but one factor. This is not always the best guide to potential academic merit. Only the most boneheaded will fail to realise that a mediocre student who is well taught at a good school may do very well in an examination while a very good student badly taught at a bad school will do much less well. Yet that second student is the one who should be offered a place.

So the admissions judgment is complicated and difficult, and mistakes are often made. It is no disgrace not to be made an offer. Nonetheless, the ancient universities (and their colleges) — just like other universities — are committed to academic excellence. It would thus be to deny their nature to make admissions decisions on extraneous criteria such as good "connections".

The most important criterion in admissions must, therefore, always be an assessment — albeit imperfect — of potential academic merit. How could it, in justice, be otherwise?

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER FORSYTH,
Robinson College, Cambridge,
January 15.

From Mr Simon Pattinson

Sir, The views of Simon Jenkins are supported by J. C. Masterman, among other things Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, 1957-58, in his autobiography published in 1978:

"The decisive argument is simply this: in selection for entry one should look for promise rather than for previous performance. Mistakes will be made, but the dividends which accrue will far more than compensate for them. The alternative is a college spoiled by uniformity and overpopulated by decent mediocrities."

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PATTINSON,
Grove Cottage,
Hooe, Battle, East Sussex.

Landmines legacy

From the Chairman and the UK Director of Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal

Sir, Bravo Princess Diana! As an organisation that has the depressingly sad task of picking up the pieces by making artificial legs for Afghan war-wounded, we applaud her initiative (letter, January 17). Since 1986 we have supplied more than 7,000 artificial legs to Afghan men, women and children — nearly all of them mine victims. Anything that anybody can do to curb the terrible damage caused by mines is enormously worthwhile.

The Princess visited our clinic in Peshawar in September 1991. She saw children who had both legs blown off. She knows what she is talking about.

Yours faithfully,
SANDY GALL (Chairman),
ELEANOR GALL (UK Director),
Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal,
PO Box 145, Tonbridge, Kent,
January 17.

Great survivors

From the Reverend A. C. C. Courtald

Sir, In the wake of the magnificent rescue of Tony Bullimore by the Australian Navy you printed a list of other notable survivors ("Tested to the limit", January 10).

May I suggest that such a list might include my late father, Augustine Courtald, who, while taking part in the British Arctic Air-Route Expedition 1930-31, survived for five months alone in a small tent on the Greenland icecap with no communication with the outside world.

For the last six weeks, while his rations were running out, he was literally entombed by the snow, which completely covered his tent and prevented his escape until the rescue party arrived.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER COURTAULD,
St Paul's Vicarage,
32 Wilton Place, SW1,
January 16.

Mezzanine melodies

From Mr Stephen Baxter

Sir, Mrs Tullio's letter today about "superior lift music" reminds me of the button which I spotted recently in a lift in a Sydney hotel. It was marked "Cancel Music".

Can we hope that this brilliant idea will catch on here?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BAXTER,
16 Milner Street, SW3,
January 18.

OBITUARIES

NEVILLE CRUMP

Neville Crump, racing trainer, died on January 18 aged 86. He was born on December 27, 1910.

A bluff, outspoken trainer of the old school, with a rum-bustious, outside personality, Neville Crump enjoyed a career of immense success spanning more than half a century. He saddled no fewer than ten winners of various Nationals — three at Aintree, five Scottish and two Welsh.

Crump forged his reputation in the Yorkshire racing centre of Middleham where, over a period of four decades, he became its undisputed grand seigneur, while remaining, at the same time, an evergreen enfant terrible. Riding out to early exercise, for instance, he was much given to rousing slumbering inhabitants with loud and unmusical song, belaboured comments on idleness, or even a blast on the hunting horn.

He first took out a licence in 1937, but it was not until 1948 that his career took the turn which was to lead to fame and great repute. The catalyst for this sudden change was the nine-year-old mare, Sheila's Cottage. Only half-bred, headstrong and with a tendency to bite and kick, she had passed the post in the 1947 Grand National ahead of everything else — but without a rider. She next ran in the Scottish National, then held at Bogside on the Ayrshire coast.

There she looked like winning. But her rider, Arthur Thompson, later blamed himself for driving her too hard into the downhill fence three from home. She lost her footing, unseated him, then promptly galloped into the sea, swam an inlet, and was finally retrieved by Crump from Irvine police station at midnight.

The next year, Sheila's Cottage was sold to John Proctor, who combined deep-sea fishing interests in Grimsby with keeping the Lord Nelson public house in the nearby Lincolnshire town of Brigg. He paid £3,500 for the mare. But that sum was quickly recouped when, in the 1948 Grand National, she was driven past First of the Dandies on the run-in and won with a length to spare at the generous odds of 50-1.

After that life was transformed for Crump. It was interesting to note, too, that Sheila's Cottage seemed to possess several of the same characteristics as her trainer — among them an eccentricity, an almost impetuous resolution and a reckless honesty. If Crump did not actually like many an unsaddling enclosure as well as the



Middleham gallops would resound to the bark of his strictures.

Before the turning point in his life, Crump had had, at best, a half-dozen horses in his yard. Within a few months he had thirty and a new yard had to be built. In the subsequent 15 National Hunt seasons, Crump appeared ten times among the top six in the trainers' list — and was first, twice.

Neville Franklin Crump was born near Croydon, the son of Charles Crump, who was a superb horseman and later master of foxhounds. He had returned to England after ranching in Australia to marry and retrieve his family fortunes by manufacturing cheese in the West Country. Crump was in the saddle at an early age and in the hunting field.

Educated at Marlborough he had no pretensions to academic brilliance, yet managed to gain a place at Balliol, where he scraped a pass degree. What Jowett might have made of his later career is an interesting speculation. Nevertheless, at least as far as training racehorses was concerned, Crump illustrated the adage about Balliol men: that you

could tell one anywhere, but you could not tell him much.

Oxford also bestowed other gifts on Crump. He joined the OU Cavalry Squadron, an experience which was invaluable when, on going down, he took a commission in Winston Churchill's old regiment, the 4th Hussars, and began to make a name for himself as a rider in point-to-points. But his Regular Army career was relatively brief because he strongly held to the notion that cavalry should be primarily concerned with horses, not tanks.

Resigning from the Army in 1935 he went as assistant, paying a premium for the privilege, to Sonny Hall at Russley Park, near Swindon. Crump then took out a trainer's licence and, at the end of 1937, moved to Upavon on Salisbury Plain. Despite having only a few horses, he had early success, one of the riders he employed being his exact contemporary, and eventually parallel giant of the National Hunt training scene, Fulk Walwyn. In fact, Walwyn's final winner, before he was forced to retire from the saddle through injury, was for Neville Crump, and a lasting

friendship between the two dated from those days.

In 1939 war brought a temporary halt to Crump's training activities. He was recalled into the North Somerset Yeomanry who were dispatched to Palestine. On their conversion into a signals unit, however, Crump returned to the UK and in 1941 was (ironically in the light of his views) put in charge of tank training at Barnard Castle, Co Durham. Here, he grew to love the North of England. By the time the war was over, he had resumed training on a small scale and shortly afterwards moved to Middleham and found an invaluable, talented and loyal ally in the Irish-born rider, Arthur Thompson, himself a former Desert Rat and prisoner of war.

The year after the crucial victory of Sheila's Cottage at Aintree, Crump sent out the first of his five Scottish National winners. This was the brave little horse Wot No Sun, owned by Captain Tom Wilson. Although never successful in the Grand National itself, he was, nevertheless, runner-up to the great Freebooter in 1950, and third in his stable-companion Teal, two years later.

Teal, second of Crump's Grand National triumphs, was another former point-to-point horse, but one who was on offer for sale as a very young horse for only £5 in his native Tipperary. Eventually, a brilliant jumper, Teal was bought for £3,000 by the builder, Harry Lane, and when he won narrowly at Aintree in 1952, after a long tussle with Dorothy Paget's Legal Joy, he landed an enormous six-figure gamble for his owner.

Teal and Wot No Sun apart, Crump had a further runner in the race, Skyrhelme, ridden by Dick Francis. Skyrhelme fell, but the previous season had won the Welsh National at Chepstow.

Crump's third and final Grand National victory came in 1960 with Merryman II in the first televised coverage of the big race and the last over its old-style formidable fences before they were modified. Merryman II was yet another ex-point-to-point, owned by Winifred Wallace. Winner of the Foxhunter's Chase over a circuit of the National course the previous season, it was rated by Crump the best Liverpool horse he ever trained. In 1959 he had won for his trainer a second Scottish National. At Aintree, the fact that he started as the 13/2 favourite, and easily justified the confidence by 15 lengths, was some indication of the

public's faith in Crump's ability, for the horse's preparation had been badly interrupted.

Crump's success was not, of course, confined to the various Nationals. He saddled three winners of the Whitbread Gold Cup — Much Obligated, Hoodwinked and Dormant — while in 1962 he was responsible for the first two in the Hennessey Gold Cup, Lord Jockey's Springbok beating his stable-companion Rough Tweed. Among other popular Crump horses were the front-running Shining Gold, Arcturus, Chesapeake Bay, Whispering Grace, Ice Plant, Goosander, and Ballet Lord. The trainer also showed his mastery on the Flat: his winning hurdler Kapatwarwo (the strange name is a dominoes term) also broke the five-furlong record at Thirsk, while Sporting Statue topped the Northern Free Handicap.

Although the peak of his career had been reached by the late Sixties, the stable continued to send out winners, and Crump was 72 years old when, in 1983, Canton became his fifth Scottish National winner. Only three years before that, he had taken the race with Salkeld and, in that same season, the Welsh National for a second time with Narvik.

Crump retired in 1989, maintaining to the last a steadfast contempt both for humbug and double-dealing. His robustly Chaucerian sense of humour was matched by a combustible turn of phrase, whose directness was a mask for a kind heart. In technical terms, his immense success as a trainer was rooted in meticulous attention to detail, unfailingly running a horse on its merits and, above all, an uncanny understanding of horses. He was a great believer in the use of the loose school for teaching horses to jump and giving them confidence. If a horse fell, he saw it as a failure on his part.

A further uncompromising characteristic was his refusal to train for bookmakers; and if an owner suggested a horse should not run an honest race, that horse was dispatched forthwith from Warwick House. In addition, Crump was well served by a staff and by riders, notably Arthur Thompson, Gerry Scott, and Pat Buckley, the loyalty of all of whom he unstintingly reciprocated.

In 1937 Neville Crump married Sylvia Diana (Brown) Bradley. She predeceased him in 1992. He is survived by his daughter, Sarah, whose son Crump had hoped might succeed him at Warwick House. This, sadly, proved not to be feasible.

STANLEY HYLAND



Stanley Hyland, television producer, died on January 18 aged 82. He was born on January 26, 1914.

STANLEY HYLAND was Harold Wilson's favourite television producer. For many years Wilson insisted on being produced only by Hyland in both party political and ministerial broadcasts — something which would arouse fierce protests from rival spin-doctors today. Wilson's relationship with Hyland was so close that his BBC colleagues nicknamed him Gold Microphone in Waiting.

Hyland's career did not depend on Wilson's patronage, however, for he had a useful all-round background in television. He helped to introduce the now familiar type of Do-It-Yourself programmes. In addition, he wrote three detective novels, including *Who Goes Hang?*, based on his own experience of the House of Commons and which was reviewed enthusiastically by J.B. Priestley. When he left the BBC he founded HyVision, one of the first organisations to train politicians and industrialists in television techniques.

Hyland was Yorkshire-born — one of the factors which helped his relationship with Wilson — and educated at Bradford Grammar School. He came to London, had a

variety of jobs, and studied part-time at Birkbeck College, where he took an arts degree. He then joined the staff of the House of Commons, working for several years in its library.

He began his BBC career with the World Service at Bush House but soon transferred to television in the old Talks Department at Lime Grove, where he came under the eye of the formidable Grace Wyndham Goldie.

He was the producer of *Bucknell's House* — an unlikely production from the intellectually arrogant Talks Department. This was the first television programme to tap the large market of DIY viewers. A house was purchased by the BBC and refurbished week-by-week by the presenter, Barry Bucknell.

Hyland rose to become chief assistant in the BBC's Current Affairs Department, by which time he was specialising in political programmes. Wilson and Hyland formed a mutual attachment through their close association — though in the end this probably did not help Hyland's progress upwards within the corporation. He produced almost all of Wilson's key broadcasts, from his 1964 last election appeal through the "pound in your pocket" devaluation broadcast in 1967 and continuing until Hyland left the BBC to found his own firm.

Somewhat coyly calling it HyVision, he started with a number of useful contracts, including the police, and although he eventually ceased to head the firm he remained a consultant for many years.

His life changed tragically in 1994 when a car he was driving was involved in an accident which resulted in his wife being killed and Hyland himself suffering severe injuries. He recovered sufficiently to retire to Bromley, near one of his sons, and only last year managed to pay a last visit to the House of Commons which had dominated his life for so long. He is survived by his two sons.

PETER DORMER

Peter Dormer, writer on art and design, died of cancer on December 24 aged 47. He was born on January 1, 1949.



FOR nearly twenty years, in a provocative series of exhibitions, lectures and publications, Peter Dormer worked at breaking down the barriers between the various arts, and between the arts and other disciplines. He earned a reputation as an idiosyncratic and combative critic who helped to pioneer public understanding of contemporary crafts. His published studies, including *The New Jewellery* (1985), *The New Ceramics* (1986) and *The Meanings of Modern Design* (1990), became standard works.

Peter Andrew Dormer was born in Fakenham, Norfolk. From 1955 onwards the family home was on a skimpily designed new council estate in Cambridgeshire. Nonetheless, it was at this time that Dormer first recognised the potential of modern design.

He studied painting at Bath Academy of Art and in Manchester, before going on to read philosophy at Bristol University, developing there a passion for logic, aesthetics and the philosophy of science. This was followed by a time working in local government and, if his ability to see both sides of a question hampered decision-making, he honed his already sharp debating skills along with the political awareness which was to characterise his work.

In 1978 Dormer began to write for *Art Monthly* magazine, contributing a regular and typically polemical column. By the early 1980s he decided to turn to writing full-time. He was assistant editor of the Crafts Council maga-

zine *Crafts* from 1981 to 1983 and continued to write for this and for a number of other publications until shortly before his death. He was also involved in the staging of a number of exhibitions including *Fast Forward* in London's Institute of Contemporary Arts in 1985, a landmark exhibition of ceramics.

In recent years Dormer expanded his interests, writing about design for manufacture and, increasingly, about architecture. He also continued to write books, publishing *Design Since 1945* in 1993 and following this a year later with *Art and the Maker*, a typically personal attempt to understand the kinds of knowledge involved in craft processes.

His contribution to an understanding of contemporary crafts was publicly recognised in 1995 when the University of East Anglia appointed him its first Fellow in Critical Appreciation in the Crafts and Design.

He is survived by his wife Jane, whom he married in 1974 and who cared for him devotedly throughout his long fight against cancer. There were no children.

SIR JOHN MAY



Sir John May, PC, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, died on January 15 aged 73. He was born on June 28, 1923.

IN 1989, aged 66, John May took early retirement from the Court of Appeal in order to spend more time with his family at their Dorset home. But release from a heavy workload was not to last long. Within 12 months he had been snapped up by the Home Office to conduct in-depth inquiries into two of the more controversial cases of recent times: those of the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven.

His humanity and integrity were well proven. Ten years earlier, while still a High Court judge, he had been chosen by James Callaghan's Labour Government to lead a far-reaching investigation into the prison service. The result was a seminal report which urged the closure of insanitary old jails and the building of new ones. To help to prevent overcrowding in Britain's prisons, it also called for a reduction in jail sentences for the mentally and socially disabled and for those convicted of only minor offences. With the same end in view, it proposed an extension to the parole and remission system. Finally, May and his committee recommended a new, more rigorous, scheme for prison inspections, to be led by a fiercely independent chief inspector.

With a distinguished legal career also behind him, May was immediately in the frame when, in 1989, the Home Office needed someone to in-

vestigate the saga of the so-called Guildford Four. The Four had been given life sentences in 1975 after the IRA pub bombings in Guildford and Woolwich of the previous year. Their convictions were quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1989, however, following a long campaign to prove their innocence.

A complication which delayed May's inquiry was the trial — and subsequent acquittal — of three former policemen, charged with fabricating evidence. As it was, May's final report in 1993 acknowledged that after so many years it was impossible to establish the whole truth behind the story. But he supported the Court of Appeal's decision to quash the convictions and he asked questions of various bodies including the Attorney-General's department and the Home Office.

While he could not identify those responsible, his main concern was to try to ensure that such miscarriages of justice did not recur. The establishment of the Criminal Cases Review Commission was among the indirect results of his inquiry. The Maguire Seven had been convicted in 1976 of allegedly running an IRA "bomb factory" in Kilburn, north London. They had served their sentences, and one of them had died in prison still protesting his innocence.

May, who was involved in both this and the Guildford Four inquiry at the same time, brought out his final report in 1992 and was no less severe in this than he was later to sound in his strictures on the

Guidford case. He was critical of the Maguire trial judge Lord Donaldson of Lynton, of government scientists who had given evidence and of those other judges who had first turned down the subsequent appeals. He also accused the press of creating a climate of guilt before the trial had begun by referring to the house involved as a "bomb factory". May concluded that the seven defendants had been the victims of a "serious miscarriage of justice".

May's own background was somewhat unusual for a judge. Born in Japan as John Douglas May, he was the son of a Shanghai-based British

businessman. He won a scholarship to Clifton College where he became head boy — and was to be told of his father's early death just as he was about to sit his Higher School Certificate (the precursor of A levels). He was later to learn that his mother and aunt had been interned by the Japanese in a concentration camp in the Philippines.

Nevertheless, he won another scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, where he subsequently took a double first in maths and physics before being swept up by the Second World War. Commissioned into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, he specialised in radar and radio and at

one time served as a lieutenant in the cruiser HMS Belfast — now a museum piece in the Pool of London.

On being demobilised, May read for the Bar and was called by the Inner Temple in 1947. He took silk in 1965 at the early age of 42.

As a barrister he first specialised in insurance and personal injury cases, although he later developed his talents to cover a wider field. In the late 1960s he represented the North Thames Gas Board as the inquiry which followed the collapse of Roman Point, the tower block of flats in east London.

He was made Recorder of Maidstone in 1971 and became leader of the South East Circuit the same year. Appointed to the High Court, he was presiding judge of the Midlands and Oxford Circuit, 1973-77, then promoted, being sworn of the Privy Council at the same time, to the Court of Appeal in 1982.

He served at various times as a judge of the Employment Appeals Tribunal, as a member of the Parole Board and, again after he had retired, as the most senior judge represented on the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice of 1991-93. He was treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1993, chaired the University Commissioners, 1989-93, and was president of the Clifton College Council at one time.

Both as a barrister and a judge, May's strengths included his understanding of technology. On one occasion after hearing a technical expert give complex evidence, the judge asked May as counsel if he

would like a short adjournment to digest the details before beginning his cross-examination. May politely declined and proceeded to demolish the witness, displaying a greater knowledge than the other man's of the subject in question. He was also known for his great clarity in court.

Although renowned for his fairness and impartiality, May was not entirely beyond criticism. He once jailed a childless woman for two years after she had stolen someone's baby, and on another occasion he ordered that a schoolgirl should be locked up for the night because she had refused to give evidence against the boy who had been charged with raping her. Such decisions, however, although they provoked great protest, were in a sense consistent with May's character. He had done what he thought was just.

In the Appeal Court in 1988 he raised the damages awarded to a black prisoner following a case of racial discrimination. The man had complained that he had been refused a job in the prison kitchen on account of his colour.

A reserved, rather private man, who was nonetheless a popular and sympathetic head of chambers, May worked prodigiously hard and had few interests outside his family — to whom he was devoted.

John May, who died after a heart attack, is survived by his wife Mary, the daughter of Sir Owen Moreshead, formerly the Queen's Librarian at Windsor, and by their two sons and a daughter.

Church appointments

The Rev Brenda Campbell, Curate, Rothley: to be Associate Priest, Market Bosworth, W. Shenon, Cadeby, Sutton Cheney and Congerstone (Leicester).

The Rev Noel Carter, Team Rector, Penrith (Carlisle): to be Priest-in-charge, St Breda w St Aubin, Jersey, Channel Islands (Winchester).

The Rev Alan Comfort, Assistant Curate, Chadwell Heath, St Chad: to be Assistant Curate, Buckhurst Hill, in charge of St Stephen and St Elizabeth (Chelmsford).

The Rev David Couling, Priest-in-charge, Gresham, Master of Gresham Hospital and Rural Dean of Hartlepool: to be Vicar, Gresham, remaining Master of Gresham Hospital and Rural Dean of Hartlepool (Durham).

Canon David Ellis: to be a Canon Emeritus of Carlisle Cathedral.

The Rev Clive Evans, Curate, Barton Seagrave w Warkton: to be Vicar, Long Buckby w Watford (Peterborough).

The Rev Simon Gales, Curate, Houghton (Carlisle): to be Vicar, Lindow (Chester).

The Rev Timothy Gilling, Chaplain, Glenfield and Glenfrith Hospitals (Leicester): to be also an Honorary Canon of Leicester Cathedral.

The Rev Robert Harrison, Assistant Curate, St Gabriel's, Cricklewood: to be Vicar, St John, Hillingdon (London).

Team Rector, Cannock Team Ministry and Vicar, Hatherton (Lichfield): to be Vicar, Selby Abbey (York).

The Rev David King, Chaplain, Andover War Memorial Hospital: to be also Priest-in-charge, Smannell w Enham Alamein (Winchester).

The Rev Leslie Lawrence, Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Hounslow: to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary the Virgin, Norwood Green (London).

The Rev John Leonard, Vicar, St Theodore of Canterbury, Leicester (Leicester): to be also an Honorary Canon of Leicester Cathedral.

The Rev George Liddle, Priest-in-charge, Evenwood: to be Vicar, Evenwood (Durham).

The Rev Michelle Lockhart, part time Assistant Chaplain,

HM Prison, Full Sutton: to be Vicar, York, St Hilda (York).

Canon Peter Mann, Priest-in-charge (Team Rector Designate), St George w St Luke, Barrow, Rural Dean of Furness, Rural Dean of Barrow Pro-Deanery and Priest-in-charge, St John the Evangelist, Barrow: to cease as Priest-in-charge, St John the Evangelist, Barrow (Carlisle).

The Rev John Mellings, Vicar, Seamer w East Ayton: to be Priest-in-charge, Nunburnholme and Warton and Shipton Thorpe w Hayton (York).

The Rev Peter Midwood, Vicar, Swaledale and Fellowship of Vocation Chaplain for Richmond archdeaconry: to be also Rural Dean of Richmond (Ripon).

ODEON CINEMA

THE BLUE LAMP

It is not only foreigners who find the English policeman wonderful, and, in composing this tribute to him, the Ealing Studios are giving conscious expression to a general sentiment.

The tribute is a handsome one, and the only pity is that there is not a little more genuine realism in the phrasing. Of the kind of realism that concentrates on getting details right there is plenty, and it is easy to believe that Scotland Yard co-operated in the making of the film, but when it comes to the drawing of character, the director's hand fails him and he falls back on presenting types and the kind of dialogue that goes with them.

The police station and the routine that goes on there, the infinite care over trivialities, the scientific aids in the prevention and detection of crime, the work of the police cars and of the man on the beat, all these find their true reflection on the screen; when the

ON THIS DAY

January 20, 1950



Jack Warner, as PC Dixon, your friendly local British bobby, was shot by Dirk Bogarde, as a new type of young delinquent in reckless mood. The film was said to have given a fillip to police recruitment.

camera shifts to the persons of Police-constable Dixon and Police-constable Mitchell there is no longer the certainty of reality accurately observed and accurately presented. There is an indefinable feel of the theatrical backdrop behind their words and actions; Mr Jack Warner and Mr Jimmy Handley do all that can be done, but the sense that the policemen they are acting are not policemen as they really are but policemen as an indulgent tradition has chosen to think they are will not be

banished. The point is important, important in this particular context and as symptomatic of the failure of British films lately to get to sufficiently close and uncompromising grips with their subjects, but for most it will be enough that *The Blue Lamp* tells a story excitingly and gives admirable documentary illustrations of the way the police force goes into action against the criminals.

Mr Dirk Bogarde, as a representative of the new type of criminal, the reckless youth with a kink in his mind, gives an admirable performance, and Miss Peggy Evans, as his adolescent accomplice, is right in her belligerence and hysteria. Towards the end some hard-working, tax-paying members of the audience may feel a little aggrieved by the film's insistence that bookmakers and tic-tac men at greyhound-racing meetings are an example to every one and pillars of society.

Perhaps the film does not really mean it and, anyway, it manages the closing scenes at the White City stadium with immense dramatic verve.

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FEELING THE HEAT

Michael Henderson sees a day of upsets at the Australian Open tennis

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SUNDAY BEST

Giving women's rugby a try

Sport for All

PAGE 39

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Rob Andrew offers praise for Wales but little solace for the footsore Irish after the opening skirmishes

PLUS the problems of England's selection

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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 20 1997

SECOND-HALF GOALS PUT ARSENAL BACK ON THE TITLE RACE



Southall dives valiantly but is powerless to prevent Merson from sliding in Arsenal's third goal in their victory over Everton at Highbury yesterday. Photograph: Stuart Atkins

Stylish Bergkamp signals red alert

Arsenal 3
Everton 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

RED, or perhaps rouge, is becoming the dominant colour of the FA Cup Premiership. This weekend, after so much inconsistency, Liverpool, Manchester United and now Arsenal have shown their power, their reserves, their goalscoring potential and occupied positions: one, two and three. It begins to look like a clean break from the field.

Arsenal, scoring three times in 13 minutes early in the second half, identical to Liverpool against Aston Villa the previous day, must accept that their win yesterday, as polished as it was, owed plenty to the great good fortune of an Everton goal — a good goal — being unjustly ruled offside before half-time.

It happened after 31 minutes.

Ferguson, fitful though he was, had attempted an overhead kick but, when the ball slithered down off his boot, Barnaby, so quick of mind and body, stole two yards forward and, with his own acrobatics, swivelled to hook the ball cleanly and powerfully into the net. To be fair, it did appear offside to the naked eye. Sky Television, with its cameras and its blue line technology, proved conclusively that Barnaby had come from behind Keown and Bould.

Such decisions turn matches. Everton, on the corresponding day last year, had been the last team to take all the points from Arsenal at Highbury, and once the home side found a higher rhythm, better shooting boots, poor Everton were swept aside. "We never doubted from the bench that it was a goal," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. "But that doesn't take away some of the things I saw in the second half. We were comatose for a quarter of an hour; Arsenal didn't need the kind of sloppy defending

from us, they hit their own purple patch and my side, which had been tight for five games since Christmas, was like a colander." A sieve by any other name.

Dennis Bergkamp, in such resplendent form but about to be suspended, unhinged the Everton defence. The first goal, in the 55th minute, stemmed from a dreadful error by Barrett, who gave the ball carelessly to Winterburn. From then, through five pairs of feet, Everton were bemused by the ball-play and when Dixon lobbed it forward over an inert rearguard, Bergkamp, just using the instep of his right boot, let the ball fade elegantly off him into the net.

It was surprising that it took this long to exploit the obvious. In the very first minute Bergkamp appeared a man on turbo cruise control as he outpaced the comparatively ponderous Unsworth. Yet Arsenal, as pleasing as it was to see their self-control, as comprehensively as Merson ran from midfield and Vieira passed, waited too long

to exploit Bergkamp's graceful omnipotence.

Two minutes later, from a similar position but with full-blooded venom, Vieira almost burst the inside of the netting with another volley, this time after the ball had been poorly cleared from a corner.

And the contest was effectively

TOP OF THE TABLE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Liverpool	24	13	7	4	41	20	46			
Manchester Utd.	23	12	8	3	46	26	44			
Arsenal	23	12	7	4	42	22	43			
Newcastle	23	11	6	6	42	26	39			
Wimbledon	21	11	5	5	34	25	38			
Chelsea	23	10	6	5	36	32	36			
Aston Villa	23	10	6	7	31	24	36			

over after 68 minutes when Bergkamp, once again too fast of thought and movement, accelerated between Watson and Unsworth. Southall, having made two immaculate, overhead saves from Merson and Bergkamp, this time used his legs to deflect the low

shot from the Dutchman. Unfortunately for the goalkeeper, it rebounded off the shin of Unsworth to Merson who, from three yards, accepted the reward for following up and claimed his 99th goal in an Arsenal shirt.

"We had had problems finding our rhythm in the first half," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "I was a little bit scared that, physically, we were not prepared because of our cup match at Sunderland last Wednesday. So I was surprised how quick we started the second half, how we produced so much collective energy within the team, and when they share this energy with the crowd, they can beat anybody. It was not like that in Monaco, where you have no fans."

In Monaco, they did not have Bergkamp. Here, as for the past two months, he showed the hypnotic control, the agile mind to transcend yet another game. "I think after every match he comes in with a bottle of champagne,"

Wenger said. "He can open a shop now."

But he will drink alone, suspended for an uncharacteristic wild tackle on Paul Bracewell during the Premiership match away to Sunderland. David Platt, whose hamstring snapped in the second half, will also be out for three weeks. Signing Hristo Stoichkov on loan is only a rumour, and Wenger said: "We don't need a left winger. We are looking for a forward, but he is not on our list."

Everton were left reeling on what might have been. They are mid-table, have suffered five consecutive defeats, and struggle without Hinchcliffe, Parkinson, Grant and Ebbrell, all injured. Yet, with their new signing, Claus Thomsen, competently matching up to Vieira, they turned the pitch into a controlled environment for 45 minutes. Everton's intent was as grey as the north London weather, containment was almost an art form to them, and yet not only had they broken for the disallowed

goal, but two minutes after that Barnaby had sweetly released Ferguson, whose first-time shot from the edge of the penalty box was saved thrillingly by Seaman, who dived at full stretch to his right.

In the end, Everton were allowed one flurry, one consolation. It was 12 seconds from time, Arsenal had lost concentration and Adams, in his 500th game for the club, together with Bould and Keown, had relaxed. They simply watched Ferguson soar majestically to head home his seventh goal of the season. A forlorn token for the team wearing blue, but now it really does seem that red is the colour.

ARSENAL (3-0-2): D. Seaman — M. Keown, A. Adams, S. Bould — R. Platt, P. Merson, V. Vieira, D. Platt, S. Hughes, S. Hirst, N. Winterburn — I. Wright, L. Dixon, A. G. D. Bergkamp.

EVERTON (0-0-2): M. Southall — E. Barnett, D. Watson, D. Unsworth — A. Hinchcliffe, R. Grant, M. Branch, G. Stuart, C. Thomsen, G. Speed, T. Phelan — D. Ferguson, N. Barry, R. Barrow, K. Burge.

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Condition of Cork casts cloud over Test preparation

FROM ALAN LEE
IN HAMILTON

DOMINIC CORK, the most influential figure in the belated kick-starting of England's winter tour, was last night strapped in a corset to immobilise a back injury threatening otherwise serene preparations for the first Test against New Zealand.

Cork's participation in that match, indeed in the rest of the tour, was clouded in a cruel uncertainty only a fortnight after he joined the England party on finishing a spell of compassionate leave.

He left the field after bowling nine overs at the start of the Northern Districts' second innings and dismissing Bryan Young, the New Zealand Test opener, cheaply for the second time in the match.

"At the moment it looks relatively serious in that he is struggling to move," Wayne Morton, the team physiotherapist, said. "We threw everything at him when he came off the field. He had manipulation, massage, ice treatment and anti-inflammatory tablets."

"The back is taped in a rigid corset, which makes it look worse, but it may be 48 hours before we know the extent of the damage."

The solemn expression on Morton's face, however, illustrated the natural fears that it might just as easily be something far more serious, something that would jeopardise England's strategy against the New Zealanders at a time when confidence and direction was being restored to the tour.

Cork's priceless ability to bowl outwitting at will has already exposed several senior New Zealand batsmen, reassuring after the problems that have recently beset him. A summer spent struggling for his best form against the handicaps of fatigue and suspect knees was followed by a high-profile split with his wife, Jane, which led to him missing the Zimbabwe leg of the tour.

Cork returned uncomfortably to the team hotel immediately after play last night, missing an engagement at a barbecue thrown by the local cricket association. Morton explained that his condition would be monitored through today before it was decided whether to seek specialist treatment.

Further problems for the party are being caused by a flu virus. Three players — Craig White, Alan Mullally and Nick Knight — have so far been affected although all have been able to play in the present match.



Cork is bowed by the back injury that threatens his future participation in the tour of New Zealand. Photograph: Graham Chadwick / Allsport

England gathering momentum

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN HAMILTON

HAMILTON (second day of four, England XI won toss; Northern Districts, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 126 runs behind an England XI)

BARELY a fortnight after retreating from Zimbabwe to a chorus of derision that disfigured reputations and questioned futures, England are tackling a different challenge, on a different continent, with the confidence of a remarkably different team. Hard though it may be to comprehend, they are suddenly wearing the look of winners.

The health of the nation's cricket being notoriously fragile, it is too soon to be sanguine, but the portents in New Zealand are so favourable that even the alarming sight of Dominic Cork limping during a final session barren of wickets, could not distort the impression that England are hardening favourites to win the three-Test series that starts in Auckland on Friday.

A weekend of domination between blustery showers left England pressing for a second innings win within a week. The opposition may have

looked feeble for much of the two days at this pleasant city centre ground, but only those who suffer the British affliction of demeaning victories and wallowing in defeats will make much of this. England's purposeful cricket held sway until the spirited resistance of Blair Pocock and Matthew Bell obliterated thoughts of a two-day finish.

But for Michael Atherton's persistent batting doldrums, the shape and readiness of the England team for Auckland is encouraging. Graham Thorpe, a distracted figure in Zimbabwe, has made runs and there have been wickets for all the quicker bowlers. The remaining conundrum, fitness issues apart, is whether to play one or two spinners against a team traditionally uncomfortable when the ball turns.

England's initial instinct is to play two, and I hope they do not resist it, as so often happens when Test day dawns. Philip Tufnell, whose public contributions yesterday were a session of lapping the ground (he is taking his fitness more seriously these days) and a spell on the adjacent bouncy castle, has a psychological grip over certain New Zealand batsmen, an advantage that must not be wasted.

There was no need for either spin bowler as this match began with Northern Districts being dismissed in a session. The batting was inept, especially against the swinging ball, but there was much to commend about the England bowling and particularly the

skill and accuracy of Cork with the new ball.

Atherton failed again on Saturday — out leg-before to a ball that first took the inside edge — and it will take more than his diligence against a bowling machine in the indoor nets to cure a distressing sequence that has brought



Thorpe: best innings

him only 114 runs from ten first-class innings on tour.

Outwardly unconcerned by his personal strife, Atherton has privately been analysing it in his usual thorough way and decided that a greater enemy than any minor technical blips is the tension that grips every struggling batsman, without regard for stature. "I don't feel as if I am doing much wrong but I keep getting out, and the longer that goes on the more tense I become at the start of an innings," he said. "It is a natural reaction and the only cure is to spend time in the middle."

Thorpe's partnership of 125 with John Crawley was a liaison of a man in perfect tune with his game and one who has hardly played a correct note all tour. Thorpe's 71 was his highest score of an unhappy trip, while Crawley's 65 merely maintained his envi-

able first-class average in a winter set finally to establish his Test match credentials.

England's lower middle-order, however, was as unproductive as usual and, from 244 for four, the innings subsided to 294 all out. It really is time that Cork and Gough began to make the runs of which they are capable at this level: instead, White was left stranded as Alex Tate, a persistent rather than impressive medium-pace bowler, completed the best figures of his career.

Tait may never aspire above his present status, but one who should be Daniel Vettori, 17, who was making his first-class debut. He bowled his left-arm spin with a busy, optimistic action, an attractive loop and sufficient control to concern all who faced him. New Zealand are not well endowed with slow bowlers — witness the continued presence of Dipak Patel in their Test side — and Vettori, who toured England with the national youth team last summer, may find himself on route one to higher honours.

Young's demise, to a lifting ball from Cork, raised English hopes of a second surrender by Northern Districts, but these were dashed by the withdrawal of Cork and the stiffened resistance of Pocock, who benefited from a miss by Stewart off Croft and proceeded to a half-century characterised by his fluent on-driving. It left England with work to do on the third day, though this will have troubled them far less, overnight, than the condition of Cork.

SCOREBOARD FROM HAMILTON

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TENNIS: SOUTH AFRICAN THRIVES UNDER BURNING SUN AS MORE SEEDS FALL BY THE WAYSIDE AT AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Troubled Graf finds Coetzer too hot to handle

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

STEFFI GRAF gives the impression that she is a Rhinemaiden, in temperament as well as breeding, but yesterday she was defenceless as the sky fell in. At the outset of the most important week of her adult life, as her father, Peter, awaits sentence in a German court for tax evasion, she was denied the solace of a victory in the Australian Open to keep up appearances.

In temperatures that reached 53C (127F) on court, she went out 6-2, 7-5 to Amanda Coetzer, the American-based South African, after 1½ hours of gruelling tennis. The match, and conditions, were so demanding that Graf, who made 53 unforced errors to Coetzer's 28, was unable to fulfil the usual post-match interview. She curtailed a morning training session to tend an infected toe and was treated afterwards for heat illness.

Coetzer, the No 12 seed, proved a formidable opponent. She won the first set comfortably, breaking Graf's first two service games for the loss of only two points, and came from 4-0 and 5-2 down in the second set to take the match. The seventh game of that set lasted all of 17 minutes, with ten deuces. No matter what Graf's physical condition was, nobody could take this victory away from Coetzer. She earned it with the sweat of her brow and it brought the house down.

Graf's defeat means that no German has survived into the second week of the first grand-slam tournament of the year. Boris Becker went out in the first round of the men's singles and Anke Huber, seeded No 5 in the women's section, was beaten 6-2, 6-3 yesterday by Mary Pierce. However, the loss of Graf, the undisputed queen of ladies' tennis, is the biggest upset of the tournament. People felt for her, because she is a great champion and a decent human being going through the kind of public strife in her domestic affairs that few sports personalities ever have to confront.

She was a gracious loser, letting it be known before she left for her hotel room that "she [Coetzer] played really well today. I tried everything I could. I just didn't have the energy with the heat. But give her the credit, she handled the conditions really well".

Coetzer's achievement is easy to define. In the ten years since Graf won the first of her 21 grand-slam titles, she had previously lost to only eight

opponents in the big four tournaments. Although she had not played in Melbourne for two years, she was strongly fancied to add a 22nd title. It was only the second time in 12 years that she had failed to reach the quarter-finals of one of tennis' four big tournaments; she had won the last six she entered and had won 45 successive matches at grand-slam events since she lost in the first round at Wimbledon in 1994.

Graf has beaten Coetzer on grass at Wimbledon and on the clay of Paris and went into the game with a record showing nine victories against a solitary defeat, at the Canadian Open two years ago. Yet Coetzer settled quickly, stretching Graf with some dumping, two-fisted backhand returns and putting away some startling forehand



Graf injured

winners from as early as the opening game.

Not a bit fazed by the occasion, she opted to play Graf rather than Graf's reputation. So persistent was she in that first set, so sharp and agile, that, as the song has it, "she would put a whirling dervish out of whirl". After 26 vivid minutes, she took it 6-2 and prepared to face the storming response everybody around centre court was bracing themselves for.

Showing the instincts of the true champion, Graf simply ignored the evidence of that first set as though it had not taken place. She began to dictate her own terms, racing into a 4-0 lead with a flurry of piercing strokes. Surely Coetzer could not find the power within her to stem the flow of this river in flood? Stem it she did, under the eye of an unflinching sun.

First, she broke serve. Then, despite double-faulting three times in the next game, she held her own. There followed

an extraordinary passage of play, a magnificent 17 minutes of thrust and counter-thrust, that resulted in Graf taking an apparently decisive 5-2 lead, but the manner in which she put two overhead smashes into the net during that game suggested Coetzer's resolve had undermined her authority.

Graf was now struggling to move freely across the court, affected by her injured toe and the unquenchable spirit of an opponent who refused to concede an inch. By taking the next five games, Coetzer won the match and, possibly, won another match within herself. The women's title is up for grabs and if she won't grab it, who will?

Other than Graf and Huber, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario and Conchita Martínez, seeded No 2 and No 3 respectively, can also speak of this tournament in the past tense. The Spanish were dispatched by a pair of Belgians, Dominique Van Roost routed Sánchez Vicario in three sets on Saturday and, yesterday, Sabine Appelmans defeated Martínez to set up a quarter-final meeting with Pierce.

Appelmans required hydration during the match in order to complete it and at one point both players lay on the court receiving attention. "It was like playing in a sauna," Appelmans said after her 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory.

Coetzer's prize is a match against the unseeded American, Kimberly Po, who overcame Lindsay Davenport 7-6, 6-4 yesterday. In the other half of the draw is the girl everybody fancies to win a grand slam tournament before she gets much older, Martina Hingis is only 16, but she will have noted yesterday's events with the eye of somebody for whom winning tennis matches is a fact of everyday life.

Coetzer acknowledged that Graf's errors had been complicit in her victory and admitted that the searing heat had been almost intolerable. She confessed to taking heart from her performance.

"I feel this will give me a lot of confidence," she said without a trace of exaggeration. Hers was the sort of performance that persuades those of slender self-belief that it is permissible to back their ability with something more substantial than hope.

She has proved she is good enough to win this tournament. Putting solid flesh on that is the hard part, but if ever there was a week to do it, it is the one that starts today.



Coetzer maintains her concentration despite battling through the sweltering heat of Melbourne yesterday

AUSTRALIAN OPEN RESULTS

Men's singles

Third round
T Muster (Austria) bt J Krieger (Germany) 6-4, 7-5, 6-3; A Costa (Spain) bt S Draper (Australia) 6-4, 6-2, 7-5; W Ferreira (Brazil) bt R Furman (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1; D Harty (Ireland) bt A. Bonazountas (Spain) 6-3, 7-6, 6-7, 2-0 ret. C. Rius (Spain) bt N Goodwin (USA) 7-6, 6-7, 6-2, 7-6, 6-3; G Harshbarger (USA) bt C Woodruff (USA) 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 6-1; P Sampras (USA) bt M. Woodhouse (Australia) 6-1, 6-0, 6-1.

Fourth round
C. Moya (Spain) bt J. Björkman (Sweden) 6-3, 1-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; M. Chang (USA) bt A. Medvedev (Russia) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1; F. Montana (Spain) bt M. Westwood (USA) 7-5, 6-2, 6-1; M. Rios (Chile) bt T. Enqvist (Sweden) 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 6-3.

Men's doubles

Second round
J. Hargreaves (Australia) and T. Henson (Ireland) bt P. Albano (Italy) and P. Hingray (France) 6-2, 1-6, 6-1; S. Lamm (Canada) and A. O'Brien (USA) bt S. Rios (Chile) and D. MacPherson (Australia) 6-3, 6-2.

Third round

M. Knowles (Bahrain) and D. Nestor (Jamaica) bt L. Lobos (Argentina) and J. Sanchez (Spain) 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; F. Ferreira (Brazil) and P. Galbraith (USA) bt S. Nolezom (Italy) and F. Wozniak (Italy) 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-7, 6-1; J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) bt K. Kinnear (USA) and C. Woodruff (USA) 6-0, 6-4, 1-6, 6-7, 6-2; A. O'Brien (USA) and J. Strydom (Netherlands) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; N. Broad (USA) and P. Hingray (France) bt B. Black (Ireland) and G. Connell (Canada) 6-3, 6-4; J. Woodbridge (Australia) and M. Woodhouse (Australia) bt D. Johnson (USA) and F. Montana (USA) 6-1, 6-1.

Women's singles

Third round
I. Spelz (Austria) bt S. Fama (Italy) 6-1, 6-3; C. van Rossum (Belgium) bt A. Sanchez Vicario (Spain) 1-6, 6-4, 3-6; M. J. Fernandez (USA) bt S. Hargreaves (Australia) 6-2, 6-1; K. Hargreaves (Australia) bt W. Sheng (China) 6-2, 7-6, 6-2; R. Rubin (USA) bt S. Hargreaves (Australia) 6-1, 6-3; P. Schmitter (Switzerland) bt M. G. Bontaz (France) 7-6, 6-1; M. Hingray (France) bt S. Spelz (Austria) 6-2, 6-1.

Fourth round

M. Pierce (USA) bt A. Huber (Germany) 6-2, 6-3; K. Po (USA) bt L. Davenport (USA) 7-6, 6-4; S. Appelmans (Belgium) bt C. Martinez (Spain) 2-6, 7-5, 6-1; A. Coetzer (South Africa) bt S. Durr (Germany) 6-2, 7-5.

Women's doubles

Second round
C. Martinez (Spain) and P. Terebin (Ukraine) bt P. Hingray (France) and C. Moya (Spain) 6-1, 7-6.

Third round

H. J. Spelz (Austria) and M. Hingray (France) bt M. J. Fernandez (USA) and L. Lobos (Argentina) 6-4, 6-2; V. Ruano-Pascual (Spain) and P. Suarez (Argentina) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and S. Hargreaves (Australia) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4; M. Hingray (France) and S. Spelz (Austria) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4; J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Mixed doubles

First round
L. Davenport (USA) and G. Connell (Canada) bt E. Lohoff (Russia) and A. O'Brien (USA) 6-3, 7-5; P. Po (USA) and J. Wozniak (Italy) bt C. V. (Italy) and J. Strydom (Netherlands) 6-3, 6-1; L. Lobos (Argentina) and M. Barmann (USA) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-1, 6-4; A. O'Brien (USA) and J. Strydom (Netherlands) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; H. J. Spelz (Austria) and M. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1.

Lohoff (Russia) and A. O'Brien (USA) 6-3, 7-5; P. Po (USA) and J. Wozniak (Italy) bt C. V. (Italy) and J. Strydom (Netherlands) 6-3, 6-1; L. Lobos (Argentina) and M. Barmann (USA) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-1, 6-4; A. O'Brien (USA) and J. Strydom (Netherlands) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; H. J. Spelz (Austria) and M. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1.

Second round
M. J. Fernandez (USA) and L. Lobos (Argentina) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; L. Lobos (Argentina) and M. Barmann (USA) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-1, 6-4; A. O'Brien (USA) and J. Strydom (Netherlands) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; H. J. Spelz (Austria) and M. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1.

Third round
H. J. Spelz (Austria) and M. Hingray (France) bt M. J. Fernandez (USA) and L. Lobos (Argentina) 6-4, 6-2; V. Ruano-Pascual (Spain) and P. Suarez (Argentina) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and S. Hargreaves (Australia) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4; M. Hingray (France) and S. Spelz (Austria) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4; J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Fourth round
M. J. Fernandez (USA) and L. Lobos (Argentina) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; L. Lobos (Argentina) and M. Barmann (USA) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-1, 6-4; A. O'Brien (USA) and J. Strydom (Netherlands) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; H. J. Spelz (Austria) and M. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1; J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) bt J. Strydom (Netherlands) and P. Hingray (France) 6-3, 6-1.

ICE SKATING

Britons negotiate qualifying charade

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN PARIS

THE two British competitors safely survived the men's qualifying competition in the European figure skating championships here yesterday. Steven Cousins finished in fifth place in group B and Neil Wilson, who succeeded Cousins as British champion last November, was five places lower.

This was no great cause for celebration since the competition, designed to reduce the field to 30 for the short programme on Wednesday, was divided into two groups with 15 skaters going forward from each.

Wilson suffered the disadvantage of skating first before the judges, as well as the skaters, had had the chance to warm up, and they may have been unkind to the British champion, with marks ranging from 4.6 to 4.9.

Wilson did, after all, succeed with seven triple jumps. Five of them, though, fell a little short of perfection and he did not seem wholly committed to the exercise. Nothing, though, can detract from his purity of style, his stunning spins and his intuitive interpretation of music.

If Wilson was marked unkindly, the reverse was more the case so far as Cousins was concerned. After some elegant and cultivated footwork, his first jump, after a long build-up, was a single lutz, which represented a huge let-down. At this level a triple is virtually a required element.

An attempt at a triple axel as late as three minutes into his programme hinted at a sense of desperation, but it put him

on his bottom and the sketchy triple flip that followed came as no great surprise. In the circumstances, marks ranging as high as 5.8 were unexpected.

These qualifying competitions for men and women, first instituted four years ago, have developed into a charade. The world championships, with a much bigger entry, does indeed require some weeding out but here, with only 33 skaters vying for 30 places, only the last two in group B were eliminated. Even worse, in group A, which followed, 16 skaters were competing, if that was the word, for 15 places.

Nicky Gooch lost his overall title and was then denied a bronze medal after crashing out just ten yards from the finishing line in the European short track skating championships in Malmö.

Gooch, who knew he had to finish in the top three in the 3,000m to assure himself of the bronze medal in the overall classification, appeared to skate a tactically-perfect race. Rounding the final corner he was in second place, but he then tangled with Italian Mirko Vuillemin and was sent crashing into the barriers. Vuillemin was later disqualified and as a result lost the overall title to team-mate Fabio Carta, but for Gooch the damage had already been done.

The championship did end on a high for the British team, with Gooch joining up with Matthew Jasper, Robert Mitchell and Matthew Rowe in a relay quartet that retained their title.

BBC produces nimble final try



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

It is one of those cruel ironies that the closer the BBC gets to losing the five nations' championship, the better its coverage becomes. Not only was the game between Scotland and Wales on Saturday a cracking start to the championship, it got the Corporation's final season as host broadcaster under way in fine valedictory style.

Calling the shots from Murrayfield was Grigor Stirling, who once again coordinated some of the best camera coverage around. Not only does he have touchline cameras in place, he is prepared to use them — at length if the situation requires. When the reverse-angle replay was needed, it was there. As for the perennial dilemma about whether you shoot rugby in long-shot (to spot what the three-quarter line is doing) or up close (to monitor the forwards), Stirling mixes it up as well as anyone.

The only weakness was the on-going problem of missing live action while showing a slow-motion replay. Basically, I think the rule should be this: Unless the play has led to Neil Jenkins building one of his sand castles, forget it — there isn't time. That said, I don't

recall anything of any great import being missed on Saturday, although that has as much to do with luck as it has with judgment.

This being Murrayfield, Bill McLaren was on commentary duty, joined (perhaps a little unexpectedly) by Eddie Butler. The Scotland team may not have benefited from its pre-Christmas warm-up matches, but McLaren has a good voice and bang on top of the latest raft of new rules. "Shouldn't that be a scrum?" Butler queried, as an aimless Scottish kick dropped over the Wales try-line. "No," McLaren replied confidently. "Only when it goes over the dead-ball line or goes into touch behind the try-line." I've no idea whether he was right, but it sounded impressive.

My reason for being surprised at finding Butler alongside McLaren is simple and I

hope reasonably flattering. It is that Butler has become so accomplished a broadcaster journalist that I had half-forgotten that he was a player — let alone a good one — at all. He sounds like a journalist, not a former player — keener to discuss the wider perspective of the game rather than specific incidents as they happen. But his points were made quickly and well. He immediately spotted, for instance, that the first Wales try was created by the former rugby league triumvirate of Baleman, Gibbs and Quinnell.

Butler also contributed to an enjoyable Five Nations Rugby Union Preview late on Friday night. Gone was the slightly laboured discussion format of last year, in its place a number of instantly recognisable internationalists (present and recently past) held forth about what the

tournament meant to them. Taking full advantage of the chequebook transfer market that has so transformed the London club scene, this usefully included contributions from Philippe Sella, Francois Pienaar and Václav Tluhák.

The constant reminders that this was the first professional five nations' (none more eloquent than Gary Armstrong pointing out that playing for Newcastle sure beats driving a lorry for 12 hours a day) did make me wonder how long the supply of articulate rugby players could continue. A little while longer, if the performances of Gavin Hastings and Nigel Walker alongside Steve Rider are anything to go by.

Apart from a naked Welshman in a bath, the Grandstand build-up was commendably gimmick-free but not without comedy, the high point of which was Nigel Starmer-Smith interviewing Brian Ashton, the new Ireland coach, and pouring tea at the same time. "Do you take sugar?" Starmer-Smith asked ever so politely. "Yes, two please." Rugby union and afternoon tea? A new era has truly dawned.

SAILING: OLYMPIC SILVER MEDAL-WINNER RENEWS RIVALRY WITH BRAZILIAN

Ainslie aims to prolong class struggle in Rio

BEN AINSLIE, Great Britain's Olympic silver medal-winner in the Laser class, is in Rio de Janeiro this week to sail in the Brazilian national championships, giving him his first opportunity since the Olympics to take on Robert Scheidt (Edward Gorman writes).

It was Scheidt who piped Ainslie for gold in Savannah and the battle between the two is very much the feature of the international Laser scene this year. Scheidt already has back-to-back world

titles in the class and is hoping to add a third at the world championships in Chile in October.

Ainslie, 19, has never beaten the Brazilian over a series but is determined to avenge his eclipse in the Olympics with a world title. Victory on the Brazilian's home waters, off the Yacht Club of Rio de Janeiro, would be a useful opening to that campaign.

Other leading sailors invited include Stefan Warkalla, of Germany, and Peer

Moberg, of Norway, who took the bronze in Savannah. Ainslie comes to the championship with uninterrupted good form that stretches back to the Olympic trials in September 1995.

In the past three months he has won almost every race he has sailed and added \$10,000 to his bank account with a victory in the invitational Touristic regatta in Kuwait. While the world title is his main focus, he will also defend his European title at Cascais, Portugal, in August.

BOXING

Champion convinced the best is yet to come

BY SHIKMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NEVILLE BROWN, the British middleweight champion, is learning to box all over again. Although a seasoned campaigner, having started his career eight years ago, boxed for a world title and defended his British title five times, he believes he has much to learn.

After retaining his title by stopping Willie Quinn, of Scotland, in four rounds at Swadlincote, Brown said: "Tonight I showed only a little of what I can do. There's a lot more to come out of me yet". Brown, who is also studying for a career in sports therapy at the Burton-on-Trent Technical College, has put himself in the hands of Brendan Ingle, the unorthodox Sheffield trainer, who taught Henry Graham and Naseem Hamed everything they know.

"I'm getting used to Brendan's way of training," Brown said. "His switching and moving around are a little difficult, but you can see I'm getting there. Brendan said he is going to help me become [world] champion".

Brown is hoping to meet Richie Woodhall, his former stablemate, before going for the European and world championships.

Brown, who has even forsaken the traditional wear for the skirt-type trunks favoured by Ingles' boxers, has certainly acquired a new fluency from working in Ingles' gym and has learnt to lead with the right despite having an orthodontic stance. It was that punch that got him out of trouble after he was floored in the second round by Quinn.

In the fourth, the right took the Scot by surprise and sent him reeling against the ropes. Immediately, Brown opened up with both hands and, as Quinn's defences fell apart, Larry O'Connell, the referee, stepped in.

It was a sensible stoppage, especially as in the first bout of the evening, Tommy, Quinn's 21-year-old brother, had been knocked unconscious by Jimmy Vincent, of Birmingham, and had to be taken to the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. Quinn, who had been unconscious for ten minutes in the ring, was sitting up and drinking tea soon after arriving at the hospital.

He was given brain scans and a hospital spokesman said yesterday: "He is being detained for more X-rays. His condition is stable".

Oscar de la Hoya, of the United States, retained his World Boxing Council super-lightweight title, beating Miguel Angel Gonzalez, of Mexico, on points in Las Vegas.

Good-bye battery



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FOOTBALL

Unfamiliar names help reinvigorate Liverpool

Liverpool 3
Aston Villa 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE final analysis, the next championship of England will be determined by the depth of club resources, the ability to recruit and to reorganise in a crisis. Liverpool remain tenuously on top of the FA Carling Premiership and they put a distance of ten points between themselves and Aston Villa on Saturday. Yet the first of their goals was headed in by an apprentice making his full debut, and the Liverpool defence was shored up by a Norwegian whose work permit came through less than 24 hours before kick-off.

"Our heads went down in the second half," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said. "We were miles behind them, apart from the first ten minutes. We weren't balanced to stop them playing in the middle of the park."

Balance? The English game has it all wrong. This deep midwinter, when we have undersoil heating to make the Premiership pitches playable, we have nothing commensurate to soothe the over-stressed limbs of players, too many of whom have had no respite in a year because of the European championship.

Moreover, the fixture computer has virtually sabotaged Villa. In a month that began four days before Christmas they have had seven games and have played every one of the six teams above them, plus

an away game at Notts County in the FA Cup. If beating Wimbledon, drawing against Manchester United, Arsenal and Newcastle, losing to Chelsea and now Liverpool, constitutes Villa's litmus test, it hides the facts of injuries and suspensions that distort form.

Liverpool, for example, began Saturday without seven first-team individuals because of suspensions, illness, and injury.

Villa had five senior players out, but when their manager talks of balance, he means that the loss of Fernando Nelson, in the right wing-back position, from which they have already lost Charles, meant using Riccardo Scimeca in a position he has never previously played.

Unsurprisingly, with Bjornebye, Liverpool's other recruit from Rosenborg, in Norway, in the form of his life, the breakthrough, when it came, was engineered down that flank.

These are strange times indeed at Anfield. Time was when the Kopites could reel off the names of their championship side, time when consistency of selection meant that just 14 players were involved in a championship campaign.

Liverpool have already had to field 21 players this season, stretching them across four competitions and, frankly, I cannot recall Liverpool winning only two home league games out of seven, as they had before Saturday. Nor throwing into the fray players who had barely trained with the first team.

Praise be, then, to Jamie



McManaman, left, Collymore and Redknapp finger Carragher who, left unmarked at a corner, marked his debut with the opening goal

Carragher. Born in Bootle, he is, Roy Evans, the manager, thinks, best suited to a central defensive role. But once Bjorne-Tore Kavarnne was made eligible, the manager opted to play the pair of them. Kavarnne, 24, a solid right back, dealt manfully with the elusive and creative Yorke, albeit with some guidance from Liverpool's stand-in captain, Mark Wright.

Carragher began over tenacious, being booked for a wild hack at Townsend 20 seconds after the first whistle. But he settled into what Evans described as "a very steady performance". At 18, he lacks the fear that has permeated recent Liverpool displays, he

has a neat and tidy appreciation of the club's passing game. Nevertheless, though Liverpool kept the ball for much of the time, Yorke had three chances to put Villa clear in the first half.

Denied once by the toe-end of James's boot, Yorke should have scored from three and eight yards. When he did not, and when Bosnich made a superlative reaction save to parry a volley from McAteer, we were goalless.

That is not to imply this game was ever goalless. McManaman, trying to be the rhythm master in place of the injured Barnes, wearing bicycle shorts because he is prone to hamstring strain, was tire-

less. Even in this period of struggle, McManaman plays with joy in the game. He will take the ball audaciously up to an opponent, shake his hips, feign to the right and slip even an experienced campaigner such as Townsend by dodging to the left.

Marvellous stuff. And marvellous, too, was the fiftieth minute for Carragher. Imagine this is your first Liverpool game and you have made the most timely run to a corner from Bjornebye right in front of The Kop. The Villa defenders all eyes on Mark Wright, have left you free... and even as your header shoots down into the goal, the crowd are singing your name.

In the space of 13 minutes it was all over. McManaman, with an astonishing pass, struck the opposite way he was moving, released Bjornebye down the left once more. The Norwegian's pass into the goalmouth was precise. Collymore, though struggling for the rhythm of the game, was suddenly irreplaceable as he got between Southgate and Tyler to score with a glancing header.

Then, when Redknapp tried, as he had been doing all afternoon, to score from a distance, Bosnich failed to hold his low shot at the near post and Fowler was upon him, poaching his first goal in five games, during which his

persistent ankle injury has been all too obvious. Brian Little is too obtuse a competitor to surrender Villa's title aspiration in January, though realistically he concedes that being ten points adrift of Liverpool is not ideal. And Evans? "It is nice to stay top, for once, by our own efforts. But who knows where this tide is going to finish up?"

Who has the depth of character, of desire, of playing resources to last the pace? LIVERPOOL (3-0-2): D. James — BT Kavarnne, M. Wright, D. Mattoo — J. McAteer, J. Redknapp, J. Carragher, S. McManaman, S. Collymore (sub: M. Kennedy, 74min).

ASTON VILLA (0-0-1): M. Bosnich — U. Ekeghi, S. Southgate, C. Tyler — R. Scimeca, A. Townsend, T. Johnson, A. Wright — S. Curran — S. Maisek, D. Yorke. Referee: R. Dillan.

Blackburn draw strength from Parkes's resolve

Sunderland 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS often said that a goalless scoreline does not tell the whole story. It did here. It was the story of a stalling, frustrating, numbing contest. A classic 0-0 — awful.

Blackburn Rovers played badly, creating only one chance but escaping with a valuable point — clearly a blueprint for survival. Sunderland, on the other hand, produced most of the attacking fare on offer, but wasted it woefully. They have a healthy amount of points already, and a passion to match, but a continuing failure in front of goal has cost them dear already and will continue to do so.

On the evidence, one would back Rovers to finish ahead of Sunderland, and that is a testament to the remarkable

transformation brought about by Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager. At the start of the season his team threw away points with the abandon of the tatty mascot who dispensed sweets to the crowd at Roker Park. Now, they do not even give away goals.

It was Rovers' sixth consecutive clean sheet, a rather encouraging habit. If it were

Full results and league tables Page 30

not for the barren Harford months, Blackburn might be occupying the top end of the table. The players recognise their debt to Parkes, the man responsible. "We probably would have lost that game earlier in the season, but Tony has introduced a spirit and discipline," Colin Hendry, the defender, said after another imposing performance.

Parkes flooded the midfield to combat Sunderland's fervour and, after a testing first half, his tactics worked to perfection. Such an approach may seem limited but, at the bottom, every point counts.

Sunderland did have their chances in the opening period. Orchestrated by the returning Paul Bracewell — a crucial figure — Smith, Rae and Mullin all squandered chances.

In his own way, Peter Reid has performed an equally miraculous transformation at Sunderland. Under intimidating constraints, he has created a side that is difficult to beat. He knows, though, that his side must make the most of the opportunity their passion creates.

SUNDERLAND (1-0-1): L. Perez — G. Hoad, R. O'Leary, S. Allen — D. Hoad — D. Kelly, P. Bracewell, D. Williams, A. Rae, M. Smith — J. Mullin. BLACKBURN ROVERS (0-0-1): T. Flowers — J. Kinnear, H. Burg, C. Hendry, G. Le Sueur — S. Gallagher, T. Shorrock, G. Fittich, L. Bennett, J. Wright — C. Surran. Referee: P. Acock.

Wise words prove perfect reply

Chelsea 3
Derby County 1

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

THE trial of strength between Ruud Gullit and Gianluca Vialli continues. The old Sampdoria team-mates who are now, respectively, player-manager and star striker at Chelsea, will presumably pursue their version of an arm-wrestling match until either Vialli regains his place in the Chelsea team or moves elsewhere. Once more he did not get off the substitutes' bench against Derby County, and he can scarcely have been encouraged by Gullit's unexpected acquaintance with the words of President Harry S. Truman: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Certainly Vialli is a popular figure with the squad. Dennis Wise revealed a slogan on his T-shirt: "Cheer Up Luca, We Love You."

"It's a matter of how the team responds to the last couple of days," Gullit said enigmatically. "I don't have to do anything, so you can see how the team spirit is. Everybody has to see what the new philosophy is and I think this message says everything. It's a difficult situation for Gianluca, but you have to cheer up because it's a team thing."

Have to? It is hard to see a

player as proud as Vialli cheering up while he remains on the bench, however much his colleagues love him.

Against Derby he was not needed, largely because Jim Smith's team decided to live dangerously, refusing to assign the coruscating Gianfranco Zola a man-marker. This, Smith said, was something that he had thought about but, since the bad weather largely prevented his team from training, he had not changed his tactics.

So Zola, who had been shackled in recent away games by Leeds United, Sunderland and Nottingham Forest, had the freedom of the pitch and used it to exquisite good purpose.

Once he is in possession, especially when racing in from the right, there is scarcely any way to stop him. As

early as the tenth minute Zola, exchanging passes with the impressive Di Matteo, put in a sharp, low centre from the right. Houtt, the Derby goalkeeper, could only block it. Petrescu, always dangerous on the overlap, drove in a shot, but Houtt did manage to hold that.

Zola was also involved in the disputed goal with which Chelsea went ahead just before the interval. This time he sent in a cross from the left and Carbon, clumsily challenging Hughes, knocked him over. Hughes made the most of it. Leboeuf scored from the penalty.

The only disappointment in Zola's effervescent display was when a free kick untypicaly sailed past the target. Then he and Di Matteo — but not Vialli — were off to Palermo to play for Italy against Northern Ireland on Wednesday.

Derby, who notably failed to exploit Sturridge's dynamic pace, surprisingly went ahead when the elegant, inventive

Croat, Asanovic, struck a left-footed free kick from some 35 yards with such guile that the hapless Hitchcock was beaten. A marvellous shot, but a fallible piece of goalkeeping.

Derby were not helped when Daily was sent off after 34 minutes. Smith thought that was absurd, that Daily's first yellow card was unmerited, but "when I saw the referee's name, I expected it." Nor did Smith think the penalty was valid.

Particularly pleasing for Chelsea was the debut in the midfield of another Hughes, the 20-year-old, Paul. He has been with Chelsea since the age of 11, but persistent injuries — cured, at last, by a specialist in Naples — had kept him out until now.

He looked supremely confident and had hardly got on the field when he was forcing a save from Houtt, whom he eventually beat in the 86th minute after an inspired double-exchange with the other Hughes. "You play with such good players," he said modestly. "It's a lot easier. They trust me, so they give me the ball; it's all you can ask for."

He does not ask to be loved, but then at least he is playing.

Chelsea (3-0-2): K. Hitchcock — F. Sturridge, L. Leboeuf, A. Merson — D. Petrescu, R. Di Matteo, C. Bailey (sub: E. Johnson, 49 — G. Zola, M. Hughes).

DERBY COUNTY (0-0-1): R. Houtt — G. Carbon (sub: C. Daily, 63), P. McCosh — J. Lumsden, D. Fittich, Asanovic, L. Canavan, C. Parnell, A. Ward (sub: R. Williams, 65), D. Sturridge. Referee: G. Poll.



Zola: unstoppable

Golden moment from Giggs lifts United

Coventry City 0
Manchester United 2

By ANDREW LONGMORE

THE announcement of Alex Ferguson's retirement passed largely unnoticed last week in the general brouhaha over the return of the prodigal Kenny Dalglish but, far more than depriving Tyneside of the tide, it marked the triumph of the true professional over the gifted amateur.

While Kevin Keegan walked away from Newcastle United after five years, Ferguson will have completed 25 in management, the last 13 at Old Trafford, by the time he shuffles upstairs to push some paper in 1999. There is no reason to believe that the pressure will have got to him before then. Ferguson does not, or cannot, give in as easily as Keegan or, some might say, Dalglish.

"Football is like a drug," he said, after his side had woken from their slumbers just long

enough to subdue a workmanlike Coventry City. "You want to stay in the game because you miss it so much." Ferguson was talking of Gordon Strachan at the time and his surprise that his former United player had gone into management. But he was also talking about himself and about the depth of his commitment to the game. Ferguson could no more walk away from football than he could accept defeat with a smile.

Mind you, it helps if your side tends to win and United have mastered that precious art. It is partly luck — both managers conceded Coventry should have had a penalty in the opening minutes of the second half, when Huckerby was manhandled by Neville — but it is mostly motivation: a priceless ability to coax your best players into life at different, and roughly consecutive, points in the season.

Ferguson has the touch of a racehorse trainer in sensing which of his players is about to come into form, at somehow

persuading each of them in turn that their team needs them. Now, his only failure so far has been Andy Cole. Otherwise, the muse has passed with uncanny regularity from Giggs to Beckham, to Cantona and back again.

Cantona inspired United to the championship last season. When his form has slipped this season, Beckham has stepped up to score important goals. Beckham was absent

with a sore ankle at Highfield Road, so Giggs scored a beauty with his right foot. Solskjaer has taken up the golden thread at times and so, in a different way, Keane. The knack is for the team to sense who is "in-the-zone", as American tennis players say, and to give them the ball.

United beat Coventry with something to spare, but the most heartening pointer for Ferguson was the resurgent form of Karel Poborsky. The Czech was signed as a player who could win matches when all around were floundering, a golden thread player. He has not shown much of that flair so far. Nor did he on Saturday, but his workrate was high, his running strong and his touch on the right flank sound — material enough for Ferguson to polish his growing confidence in training this week.

"I was particularly pleased for him because he has needed a little break," Ferguson said. "He's one of the best players we have at the club." Expect a

flashy goal or two in the next few weeks. Coventry lost because they had no golden thread players: they only had 11 fit players. They played patience, keeping men behind the ball and not giving United the chance to counter-attack at speed. It was not enthralling.

Scholes hit the angle of post and crossbar with a cracking volley in the first half. Giggs scored midway through the second with a delicately curled shot after a biting tackle to win a 50-50 ball from Telfer, and Solskjaer made sure with a right-foot shot ten minutes from time. "We know we're not as good as them," Strachan said. Full marks for honesty. He might be ready for Old Trafford in three years' time.

COVENTRY CITY (0-0-2): S. Ogilvie — R. Shaw, B. Brown, P. Williams — P. Telfer, E. Shaw, M. Hall, B. Brown, G. McGovern, R. Richardson, J. Salter, — D. Whelan, N. Whelan. MANCHESTER UNITED (4-0-2): P. Scholes — G. Keane, G. P. Keane, R. Johnson (sub: C. Dalglish, 60), D. Keane — K. Parnell, A. Ward, S. Cantona, R. Giggs. Referee: S. Dunn.

Francis left cursing Spurs' luck as Vega sees red

Nottingham Forest 2
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's crumbling season took on the pallor of terminal decline at the City Ground yesterday. They relinquished a 1-0 half-time lead, lost their fourth successive match, and also had Ramon Vega, the Switzerland centre back, sent off. Just when Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, must have thought his season could get no worse, it did.

Already out of contention in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup, Tottenham have only a Uefa Cup place to play for. Yet that, too, appears to be fast diminishing, even if their earnest efforts against Nottingham Forest deserved more. Fortune has deserted them.

For Forest, who escaped from the bottom three of the Premiership for the first time in three months, the balance has shifted dramatically since Stuart Pearce assumed his caretaker-player-manager's role shortly before Christmas. In his seven matches in charge, Forest have won five times. Frank Clark, his predecessor, had lost all power of motivation, yet Pearce provides it in abundance.

"Stuart told the lads not to get too excited," Pete Edwards, Forest's fitness trainer and designated post-match spokesman, said. "The commitment was excellent and everyone battled well, but we've got to do that for seven or eight more games before we can start to see daylight."

Tottenham took the lead after only 75 seconds. Nielsen's long throw evaded Calderwood, Campbell and the Forest defence, leaving Sinton to drive a crisp, low shot past Crossley. Tottenham absorbed Forest's steady pressure comfortably and Francis would have enjoyed the interval break but for Vega's dismissal in the 44th minute.

He had already been booked, for not retreating ten yards after he had conceded a free kick, when he tangled with Cooper, off the ball. Cooper fell, apparently having been struck in the face, and Vega was shown the red card by Jeff Winter, the referee. Cooper was also cautioned.

"I haven't yet seen the incident on video," Francis said. "If it was a punch, I will be annoyed about it. We can ill afford to be without any more players." Vega now faces a three-match suspension, with Calderwood also likely to be banned for two games after passing 21 disciplinary points.

Forest equalised in the first minute of the second half, when Roy diverted in Lytle's cross. He pounced again in the 62nd minute when Winter tried to play an advantage after Gennmill's blatant foul on Sinton, but Forest immediately regained possession.

Bart-Williams drew a fine save from Walker and Roy tapped in the rebound. Gennmill was, indeed, booked before the restart. "If that was a fair advantage, I'm a Chinaman," Francis said. "What can you do when things like that happen? It really would be nice just to have a little bit of luck for a change."

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (1-0-2): M. Crossley — D. Lytle, G. Cooper, S. Christie, S. Pearce — D. Phillips (sub: S. Gennmill, 60min), A. Johnson, C. Bart-Williams, I. Wain — B. Roy (sub: J. Lee, 86), N. Cough. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (0-1-2): M. Nielsen — R. Johnson (sub: S. Caldwell, 61), S. Campbell — D. Howell (sub: S. Nethercott, 86), R. Johnson, A. Sinton (sub: R. Parnell, 65), J. Edwards — R. Allen (sub: C. Wilson, 45), S. Nielsen. Referee: J. Winter.

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Francis
cursing
Spurs' line
as Vega
sees red

DalGLISH taxed by flawed inheritance

BY DAVID MILLER

Results and tables	30
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Yet, with a Mona Lisa-like smile, he did admit that, with a two-goal lead in the 88th minute, "you would expect to win". He further said that he hoped his own impact on the team would "start right away". Newcastle can expect a

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a group of people, likely a sports team, standing in front of a banner that reads "LACARADA". The image is heavily stylized with high contrast, resulting in a loss of fine detail. Several individuals are visible, some wearing striped shirts. The banner is positioned at the top of the frame, and the overall composition suggests a group portrait or a team photo.

Dalglish watches anxiously among his tracksuited colleagues on the Newcastle United bench at The Dell. Photograph: Marc Aspland

His first impact on the Newcastle formation was to admit Lee and to play Beardsley on the left, so as to give, with Gillespie, width on both flanks — as at Blackburn. There cannot be much future for Asprilla in the Dalglish formula.



Le Trier's magnificent

late equalizer for Southampton

REIT

free of any marker, unleashed what may well be the goal of the season.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-5-2): M Taylor — K Morkov, N Maddison, P Dryden — U van Goolbe, E Berkovic (sub: S Bashem, 73min), J Magilton (sub: D Hughes, 54), M Oakley, M Robinson — A Ostenstad, M Le Tissier.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Heslop — W Barton, O Peacock, F Elliott, J Beresford — K Gillespie (sub: R Lee, 76), D Bony, L Clark, P Beardsley — L Ferdinand, A Shearer.

in a privileged position, but no matter that I am a player at a big-money club. I will always have the same mentality. I am a working-class lad with beliefs from that background that I will never lose. I feel for the workers at Halewood. I feel for the dock workers who have been out on strike for 18 months.

**STEVE
McMANAMAN**



on the responsibilities
of playing at Anfield

Aston Villa helped those Liverpool supporters at Halewood to forget their problems for a few hours over the weekend. I hope, too, that they realise we want to win things for Liverpool Football Club as much as they do. When we don't play so well, it may not seem like it, but we know how important it all is.

Safety still the name of Kinnear's game

By KEITH PIKE

dash of Wemyssy Cuck. The haul, of course, is cash. "If we go down, it is £9 million down the tubes," Kinnear said. "Lose that, and getting back would be impossible."

Wimbledon, for all Kinnear's bluster, have long since been able to focus on silverware rather than survival, although successive below-par displays — merely uninspired against

LEICESTER CITY (4-2): K Keller - S Grayson, S Prior, M Elliott, P Kazemkari - M Izzat, C Parlew, N Larnnon, E Hockley - S Clondige, I Marshall.

WIMBLEDON (4-2): N Sullivan - K Cunningham, C Pary, D Blackwell, B McAllister - N Arndley (sub: J Goodman, 77min), V Jones, R Eadie, O Lachardisen (sub: M Harford, 82) - E Skoku, M Gayle.

Referee: S Lodge.

Ince wants to stay in Italy, says Hodgson

However, Harold Hornsey, the chairman, said: "It's a bolt from the blue. We have made no decision yet and I certainly don't want to see the youth policy die."

Middlesbrough find unity in adversity

By Mark Hodgkinson

Middlesbrough dominated play and appeared to extend their lead when Ravanelli finished off a delightful move involving Fleming and Juninho. The referee's assistant, Mike Stoddart,

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — S Nicol (sub: A Blinler, 46), D Walker, D Stelanovic, I Nolan — G Whittingham (sub: D Hirst, 77), G Hyde, P Atherton, M Parnidge — R Humphreys (sub: W Collins, 68), A Booth
Referee: P Durkan.

[illegible]

FOOTBALL: RUDGE DESPAIRS AS QPR RECOVER FROM 4-0 HALF-TIME DEFICIT TO SNATCH UNLIKELY DRAW

Late collapse reduces Vale to tears

Port Vale 4
Queens Park Rangers 4

By RICHARD HOBSON

LEADING 4-0 with 50 minutes gone, Port Vale felt sufficiently confident of success yesterday that they hardly bothered to remonstrate with Richard Poulain when the referee adjudged that a shot from Tony Naylor had been cleared off the line by Karl Ready, the Queens Park Rangers defender. Television replays proved that the decision was wrong, and 40 minutes later that incident assumed unlikely significance as the visitors, scoring three goals in the closing five minutes, secured a draw in an extraordinary game.

John Rudge, of Port Vale, and Stewart Houston, his QPR counterpart, appeared ashen-faced as they spoke to the press, their complexions alone dispelling the myth that pressure on managers is unique to FA Carling Premiership clubs.

"I said to the players at half-time that if Vale could score four in the first half, then we could do the same in the second," Houston said. "In the old days, Liverpool scored so many times in the last few minutes that people said they were lucky. They were not then, and we were not then. You need high energy levels to make things like that happen."

Houston, a placid, almost dour man, betrayed his feelings by running onto the pitch when John Spencer completed the recovery with almost the final kick of the game. Visiting supporters also encroached from behind the Vale goal in almost deranged glee. Some were escorted from the ground

immediately by stewards. Rudge, sporting a military-style cap and trench coat, resembled a French soldier on the retreat from Moscow, heavy-shouldered, short of stride and staring at the ground in disbelief.

"It was just so unprofessional to let them come back from the dead," Rudge said. "We played exceptionally well for more than an hour, but were left at the end simply feeling sick."

Rudge had never known such a comeback in all his years in football. Few could, though. QPR themselves fought back from 4-0 behind at half-time to draw 5-5 with Newcastle United 13 years ago, when Rudge had been newly installed as the Vale manager. The result suggests that Newcastle's charitable approach to defending pre-dates the arrival at St James' Park of Newcastle and Histon.

It remains to be seen if either Vale or QPR break bread with Newcastle next season. Vale would have moved to seventh place in the Nationwide League first division had they taken all three points, as, of course, they should. Their prospects of promotion seem unlikely. In the broadest scale of English football they are net sellers and there is a growing probability of them losing at least one of the wingers, Steve Guppy or Jon McCarthy, to the Premiership before the month is out.

Those two had a hand in the first three goals. McCarthy won a corner after 25 minutes from which Glover opened the scoring, and then Guppy crossed perfectly for Mills before laying off into the path of Jansson. A one-sided half ended when Brazier headed beyond his own goalkeeper.



Naylor, the Port Vale striker who had one goal harshly disallowed, tries his luck again yesterday

Vale had been forced to rearrange their defence after just five minutes, when Holwyn replaced the injured Griffiths, and the substitute marked his debut in the 65th minute when heaped the hapless Brazier by heading a cross from Sinclair beyond his own goalkeeper.

Yet, as Mills headed wide and Jansson drew a splendid save from Roberts — chances to rank alongside Naylor's goal that never was — the prospect of anything but a resounding home win seemed remote.

With five minutes remaining, though, Impey, a substitute, volleyed spectacularly past Mussewhite, and Murray capitalised on more good work from the excellent Sinclair to clinch over the on-rushing goalkeeper. Suddenly, the unthinkable seemed plausible, and it became reality when, after Dichio had a header turned away, Spencer

reacted quickest to score from close range.

PORT VALE (4-4-2): P. Mussewhite — A. G. G. Gifford (sub: J. Histon, 50m), D. Gower, A. Tannahill — J. McCarthy, A. Foster, J. Jansson — L. Mills, A. Naylor.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A. Roberts — M. Graham (sub: D. Mordell, 45), K. Ready, A. McDonald, R. Bevan — T. Spencer, P. Murray, G. Preece, M. Brazier (sub: D. Impey, 61), J. Spencer, M. Hareley (sub: D. Dele, 61).

Referee: R. Poulain

Blowing whistle on rumours of a conspiracy

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

A gripe about the referee is as much a part of a football match as a luke-warm pie or reeking toilet. In Scotland, though, the tirade against officials has ceased to be pantomime and turned into a darker form of drama. At Fir Park on Saturday, Motherwell believed they had levelled the score with Rangers at 1-1, but a linesman ruled that Shaun McKinnim had been offside.

Immediately, the visitors broke downfield and Brian Laudrup gave them a 2-0 lead that paved the way for a 3-1 victory. There are those who will no longer accept such incidents as an integral part of the sport's tantalising excitement. Instead, the lines to radio phone-ins are frequently tied up by Celtic fans alleging prejudice that, in the West of Scotland, is always deemed to have religious roots.

Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, would not stoop to overt talk of sectarian motives, but he did seem to suggest to one interviewer that his team had suffered repeated ill-treatment by referees this season and it is likely that he will be punished for those remarks by the Scottish Football Association (SFA).

The idea of a concerted plot against Celtic, who defeated Hibernian 4-1 on Saturday, is far-fetched, for if it ever did exist it must be deemed a disastrous failure. Would these supposed machinations not have prevented the club from running up nine consecutive championships, which included a few very close contests, between 1966 and 1974?

Burns may remain peeved by decisions at Ibrox this season, which included the loss of a goal by Jorge Cadete on January 2, but bias is impossible to establish. An Ajax coach, who attended the Old Firm game in September, blithely announced that the referee had favoured Rangers. Speaking from cosmopolitan Amsterdam, he can have had no idea of the animosity that his views would stoke in Glasgow, but he was also ignorant of the broader course of Scottish football.

If they chose, Rangers could also marshal evidence of injustice. Walter Smith, the manager, might begin by wondering how an incident in which Craig Moore was floored on Saturday could go un-noticed by any official. In addition, Rangers could protest over the manner in which

they suffered a defeat against Hibernian in the Bell's Scottish League premier division this season when a penalty was given for a foul committed outside the area.

For the Ibrox club, the suggestion that they benefit from some sort of clandestine pact by referees is galling, since it ignores the glaring fact that Rangers remain the best team in Scotland.

While the integrity of officials must be defended, though, it is also fair to observe that there has been a decline in standards. Judgment is now liable to buckle under the stresses of the principal matches, and one man in particular has illuminated a persistent fallibility in Scottish referees.

Paul Gascoigne always was liable to present them with the greatest test and, in his case, a troubling pattern has emerged. His time with Rangers has been strewn with unpunished offences. To take a sample of examples, Gascoigne has, in the past week, made an obscene gesture to the Kilmarnock goalkeeper and petulantly kicked Ilian Kirilov, of Aberdeen.

Last season, in another match with Aberdeen, he butted an opponent in the chest. None of these incidents, however, proved sufficient to have the official fishing in his pocket for a card. It is argued, in some well-informed quarters, that referees are fearful of the publicity that will engulf them if they were to dismiss Gascoigne.

Certainly, statistics demonstrate a remarkable contrast in the treatment of the mid-field player in different arenas. So far, Gascoigne has made 60 appearances for Rangers in domestic competitions without being sent off, but ten games in the European Cup have brought him two red cards. The SFA frets over the calibre of footballer being produced in Scotland, but the quality of recruitment and tuition of referees should also be a cause for concern.

Bolton bare teeth to chase off Wolves

Bolton Wanderers 3
Wolverhampton W 0

By PETER BALL

ACCORDING to Mark McGhee, Bolton Wanderers won a lot more than a football match at Burnden Park on Saturday. "I think they won the league today," Palace and Barnsley lost, we're all now chasing the next five places," McGhee said after watching his vanquished Wolverhampton Wanderers put firmly, even brutally, in their place.

Wolves had gone to Bolton with the best away record in the Nationwide League first division and were hoping to open up the championship

race. Instead they left with illusions shattered, bruised physically and mentally, out-fought and outclassed.

Jamie Pollock revelled in a rare outing to rampage across midfield, winning virtually every tackle, while Sellers and Sheridan cut Wolves apart with their passing. Richards and Currie were driven to distraction by Blake and McGinlay, who scored a goal apiece. Currie was so disoriented that he blasted Bolton's decisive second goal past his own goalkeeper in his desperation.

At the other end Taggart was a giant in stature and in performance, battering Bull into submission but also playing a creative part. He started

the fine move, carried on by Blake and Small, for McGinlay's opening goal and supplied the cross that Currie converted.

"They are by far the best in the division — by some distance," McGhee said. "They exposed a lack of quality in certain areas which, if we didn't know before, we now realise we've got to improve on."

To most neutral observers, Bolton also won the mass brawl that disfigured the start of the match.

"I think one of the things that's got to be admired about them is that they manage to play, yet they manage to compete," McGhee said. "We manage to compete, but at

times we don't manage to play."

The teams have a history of ill-feeling, going back to the play-off semi-finals of two years ago, when McGinlay was allowed to stay on the field after flooring David Kelly with a right hook and went on to score the winner. At Molineux in October, Darren Ferguson, of Wolves, was sent off in the closing minutes.

On Saturday there was no doubting Bolton's readiness for the fray. "That was how we set our stall out, we showed our steel today," Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said. McGinlay, who had needed a pain-killing injection to play, did not lead the way when the brawl broke out but he was

soon involved with 21 others after Sheridan was intercepted by a Wolves defender and replied with a flurry of punches.

"I didn't see what started it, it was difficult to sort out the aggressors from the peace-makers, so all I could do was take the captains to one side and say 'it's four minutes past three, can you calm your lads down?'" David Allison, the referee, said.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): G. Ward — S. Bergerson, C. Pashalough, G. Taggart, B. Small — D. Lee, J. Pollock, J. Sheridan, S. Sellers — J. McGinlay (sub: S. Green, 61m), M. Blake.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M. Stival — J. Smith, D. Richards, K. Currie, M. Venus — N. Entolan (sub: D. Goodwin, 89), S. O'Brien (sub: M. Atkins, 71), G. Thomas (sub: A. Thompson, 71), S. Froggett — S. Bull, I. Roberts.

Referee: D. Allison

Holders fall to ambitious Harriers

Kidderminster Harriers 3
Macclesfield Town 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

TWO late goals put the gloss on a satisfying victory for Kidderminster Harriers that put Macclesfield Town, the holders, out of the FA Umbro Trophy in the first round at Aggborough on Saturday.

Macclesfield did not give up their crown lightly in a high-paced contest full of positive football that enhanced the reputations of both Vauxhall Conference sides.

Kidderminster took the lead in the 34th minute when Weir timed his run perfectly to meet Doherty's corner with a thumping header. Not long before, Bignot had rescued Kidderminster with a clearance off the line.

In pursuit of an equaliser, Macclesfield pushed Howarth forward from defence, a move that nearly paid off when he sent a shot onto and over the bar. Kidderminster, however, finished them off with a flourish.

In the 85th minute, Olney played a fine pass down the right touchline for Hughes to sprint away and beat Price at his near post. Four minutes later, Hughes made room to hit a high cross that defeated Olney's leap, only for Doherty to hammer home a first-time shot.

Graham Allner, the Kidderminster manager, is not worried about the distraction posed by the Trophy. "We've got only 14 league matches left and we'd otherwise have a lot of free Saturdays," he said. "There is also a score to settle. 'We've been to three Wembley finals and not won one,' he said. "When we did win the Trophy, it was after a replay."

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS (4-4-2): D. Doherty — M. Bignot, P. Price, M. Weir, S. Pashalough — N. Coventry, M. Carrington, K. Willett, J. Deakin — I. Olney, L. Hughes.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R. Price — D. Trinton, N. Howarth, S. Pinnau, M. Goodwin — J. Aldry, M. Sorell, S. Wood, N. Mitchell (sub: C. Byrne, 66m) — C. Williams, F. Matthews.

Referee: A. Bates

Stockport fire warning of more upsets to come

Stockport County 5
Millwall 1

By PAT GIBSON

IF THOSE clubs scrambling to get out of the Nationwide League second division thought that Stockport County's preoccupation with slaying giants in the cup competitions this season had left them with one less team to worry about, they were very much mistaken. Millwall learnt that the hard way at Edgeley Park on Saturday.

They had travelled north thinking they were back on course for promotion after claiming their first League victory since November, but were promptly overwhelmed by the kind of Stockport performance that has seen off Sheffield United, Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United in the Coca-Cola Cup and Stoke City in the FA Cup.

Jimmy Nicholl, the Millwall manager, looked crestfallen afterwards, but he conceded that Stockport are going to be a threat to everybody, not just in their own division but to Southampton, who they meet in a Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final at Edgeley on Wednesday night, and Birmingham City, who they visit in the FA Cup on Saturday.

"The evidence is there," Nicholl said. "They are very hard to play against. They are well organised, no nonsense at the back, comfortable on the ball and away they go. There is a lot of action in the last third of the field. They use their

physical advantage well and with their confidence as high as it is, they are capable of anything."

Confidence was the key on Saturday. Stockport had lost only two of their previous 28 matches, which included a 4-3 victory at The New Den. They took the lead after 11 minutes, when a long throw from Flynn was flicked on for Mutch to head smartly past Carter.

Webber headed a 28th-minute equaliser, a linesman ruling that the ball had crossed the line before Todd headed it out, but the next controversial decision, two minutes later, effectively decided the match. Mutch again got on the end of a flick, this time from a corner, and Bircham stopped the ball on the line. The referee not only awarded a penalty but sent the youngster off for deliberate handball.

It seemed harsh, since Bircham had the imprint of the ball on his stomach to show where it hit him, but Armstrong buried the penalty mercilessly. Five minutes after that, Flynn stole in from a free kick and any fledgling thoughts of a Millwall recovery disappeared inside seven minutes of the second half, when defensive aberrations allowed Cavaco to score twice.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-4-2): P. Jones — S. Curran (sub: D. Dunning, 66m), M. Flynn, J. Gerrard, I. Todd — Cavaco, T. Barnett, C. Mendenhall, K. Durkin (sub: J. Jellison, 72) — A. Mutch (sub: R. London, 66), A. Armstrong.

MILLWALL (4-4-2): T. Carson — D. Webber, R. Newman, M. Harty — M. Bircham, R. Williams, D. Savage, S. Riech (sub: D. Greshall, 48) — P. Hendley, R. Coddie (sub: R. Bowry, 46), S. Cleveland.

Referee: T. Lunt

Old boys' reunion turns into a rout for Ratcliffe

Northampton Town 5
Chester City 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHILE the meeting of Liverpool old boys Dalglish and Soumess was demanding the nation's attention, two former Everton colleagues, Ian Atkins and Kevin Ratcliffe, the managers of Northampton Town and Chester City respectively, enjoyed their own reunion. Well, one of them did.

Ratcliffe may have won a clutch of medals and international caps, but Atkins, never such a notable performer during their 18 months together at Goodison, won the tactical battle at Sixfields Stadium as his team consolidated their position in the play-off places of the Nationwide League third division.

Atkins could afford to be magnanimous towards his former team-mate. "He's done a great job for Chester," he said. "It doesn't make them a bad side because they got beat today. Everyone suffers one of those seasons. We just did to them what they've done to a lot of teams, including us. We did everything right from the first whistle."

Allowing themselves to be outnumbered in midfield, Northampton got the ball to their three hard-working forwards as quickly and as often as possible. The result was a thoroughly uncomfortable afternoon in defence

for Chester, although they nearly took the lead when Warburton, the Northampton captain, cleared Fisher's free kick with a diving header via his own post — a nice trick if you can do it.

The next time the ball hit an upright it was on its way into the Chester net, dispatched there by Matthew Rush, on loan from Norwich City, who had run on to a poor headed clearance and thumped his shot past Sinclair's right hand. Two minutes later the crossbar intervened. Grayson's header rebounding into the path of Cooper, who returned it into the goal.

Noteman soon reduced the deficit, intercepting a casual back-pass and rounding the goalkeeper to score, but the excellent Warburton headed a third from Grayson's corner a minute before half-time and Sampson netted a fourth after Grayson had struck the post yet again. Grayson finally scored a goal of his own when he chested down a long clearance before beating Sinclair.

It left Ratcliffe slightly shell-shocked, although he could still raise a laugh when a reporter asked him where Chester went after a defeat like this. "Lincoln City away, isn't it?" he replied.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (5-2-3): A. Woodman — I. Clarkson, I. Sampson, D. O'Shea, R. Webster — L. Macdonald — D. Fennell, S. Parnham (sub: D. Poy, 66m) — M. Rush, M. Cooper (sub: J. White, 30), N. Grayson.

CHESTER CITY (4-5-3): R. Sinclair — R. Grayson, P. Jackson, S. Whelan, I. Jurdant — C. Priest, S. Rice, H. Fisher (sub: M. Woods, 71) — A. Mann, R. McDonald, K. Noteman.

Referee: A. Butler

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Exit of Radford highlights splits in BAF structure

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Peter Radford was accused by a former aide during the weekend of deserting a sinking ship, the vessel in question was less the Titanic, more Tony Blair's *Exile Challenger*. The British Athletic Federation (BAF) is floating upside down rather than disappearing beneath the waterline.

Radford's decision to resign as the BAF executive chairman took everybody by surprise: management board, council and British Athletics Association (BAA) included. It was, in no small measure, because of Radford's frustration at the lower end of the sport dictating to the top. While capsize like that, it cannot progress.

The BAF management board, scheduled to meet next month, will hold an emergency meeting this week after Radford, two weeks short of his third anniversary in the job, announced on Saturday that he would be leaving to take up a post as professor and head of sports sciences at Brunel University. The board must decide whether to seek a direct replacement, redefine the role or, perhaps, appoint more than one leader. Speculation on a successor is, therefore, premature.

Radford felt dragged down by the anchor of the BAF council, comprising some 50 people. A successor would have to be "given the freedom I was never given". Aged 57, and on 12 months' notice, he is likely to remain in his post until September, when the academic year begins, giving



Radford: no freedom

the federation time to guard against hasty decisions. Geoff Parsons, the BAA director with whom Radford had worked closely in recent months, is adamant, too, that the professional end must be permitted to think for itself. "The next person will be no more successful than Peter if his hands are tied behind his back," Parsons said. "We need a management structure for people to make decisions instead of delaying them for three months until council

Radford gave not the slightest hint that he was considering an offer to go back to academia when interviewed by *The Times* last Tuesday. He was, to use the voguish word, focused, concentrating on playing the part of a chairman who had no thought of leaving, though he must have known he probably would.

Radford said he made his decision on Friday. He included himself in statements about the sport's future. "I am very confident we have a good future with our sponsors," he said. After the departure of Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, Radford said that "on the major issues it is almost certain I shall be the spokesman." No indication at all that he was about to leave. "I believe the sport has a bright horizon," he added.

When Radford took office, he said that the "plight of the clubs is very serious." He acknowledged that he had been elected by them and added that "the us and themness" has now been broken. "However, his perceived preoccupation with the elite gave rise to voices of discontent and moves were afoot among the clubs to have him removed, or his powers limited."

Radford's anger with the amateurs was evident last week when he criticised their reluctance to accept a registration scheme. "Faced with the question 'How do you want to resource your sport?' the answer was: 'Let somebody else fund it,'" he said.

His relationship with the press was most uncomfortable and probably contributed towards his decision. He boiled over last week when a newspaper listed a "dossier of disasters", highlighting losses of £750,000, the departure of Ward, Frank Dick and Andy Norman, rows with Michael Johnson, Linford Christie and Colin Jackson, and declining sponsorship, television and spectator income.

"All staff are affected by the things they read in the newspapers," Radford said. He insisted that he had "been involved in a great deal of meaningful, useful and valuable work." He noted improved relations with athletes, a performance plan for National Lottery funding, ensuring athletics was part of the new national stadium, and support for disabled athletes.

Radford accused the media of "a pessimism and cynicism which is not in the office" and said his new job is more appealing for carrying out minor media interest. Students may appreciate his lectures on the pessimism and cynicism of the media.

"I am doing what is best for me," Radford said of his decision. In a week marked by splits, it was better that Radford should take the Chris Evans way out, and leave voluntarily, rather than, like Brian Harvey, of East 17, be shown the door.



Terry and Sharron Davies welcome youngsters to the "Young Olympians" initiative on Saturday

Scheme to spot talent at a stroke

By JOHN GOODBODY

SHARRON DAVIES summed it up neatly. "We have a wealth of talent for swimming in Britain," she said, "but we either lose it or we never find it."

To help to raise the standard, her father, Terry, has launched a programme in south London to screen up to 3,000 schoolchildren between the ages of five and 11 each year. The scheme is called the "Young Olympians", and on Saturday scores of youngsters were being assessed in the first free open day at Camberwell Leisure Centre.

Terry Davies said: "We are going in at absolutely grassroots level. We are not looking at a short-term fix. Our aim is long-term. Our goal is four years away for some, but eight years for others."

The Sports Council hopes that the initiative will be copied across London. "Imagine if the rest of the country



then followed," Terry Davies said. "It is surely worth giving it a try."

More than 100 schools in the borough of Southwark have been encouraged to encourage youngsters to attend the open days, which will focus on water safety but also include introductions to all the main water disciplines: swimming, diving, water polo and synchronised swimming. The scheme is being backed by Adidas, Sportsmatch — a Government funding scheme

the Sports Council and Southwark Council, and takes the youngsters from beginner to, it is hoped, Olympian. Those attending the open days must be able to swim 25 metres, the minimum requirement in the national curriculum for any child aged 11.

The early concentration will be on assessing the ability of individuals to be safe in the water. They will then be invited to continue swimming weekly in supervised classes. This is stage two.

Terry Davies, who has coached such internationals as Helen and Andy Jameson and Paul and Robin Brew, as well as his daughter, said: "I assess youngsters by looking at their co-ordination, their flexibility, range of movement, and whether they can respond to instruction. This is different from wanting to do something. It is actually being able physically to carry out directions. And they must also enjoy swimming."

The response of Jasper Sanders, aged nine, from St Paul's Primary School in Walworth, was welcome. He said: "I like to do competition because it's fun."

In the weekly two-hour sessions, one hour will be devoted to swimming and the second to the competitive activity or to diving, water polo or synchronised swimming. The talented and dedicated swimmers then move to stage three, when they can join the Tigersharks club, which will run daily sessions at Camberwell, Crystal Palace or Alieys School.

The final stage is when the best youngsters concentrate on international competition, alongside swimmers such as Emma Tattam, a Great Britain international backstroker. "Despite its popularity and traditional strength, only two Londoners represented Great Britain at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics. By 2008, there should be more."

Brown's defiant run comes to muddy end

JON BROWN'S unbeaten cross-country season, during which he has claimed a succession of distinguished scalps, came to a muddy end in Seville yesterday (David Powell writes).

Brown was not so much outspurred as outskipped by Paulo Guerra, whom he deposed as European champion last month, in a World Cross Challenge race.

Describing the conditions as "the worst I have ever raced in", Brown led with 100 metres of the ten-kilometre course to go. However, unable to exert enough grip to sprint in calf-deep mud and rainwater, Brown was passed by Guerra, whose victory, in 29min 57sec, put him two seconds ahead of the Briton. Paul Tergat, the world champion, from Kenya, was third five seconds farther back.

Brown's run of success had begun in December with a victory over Tergat in the Llodio race in Spain. Then he denied Guerra a third successive European title win in Charleroi and defeated Daniel Komen, the 3,000 metres world record-holder, in

Durham. Brown began 1997 as he had ended 1996, defeating Thomas Nyariki, a sub-13 minutes Kenyan 5,000 metres runner, by 17 seconds in Elgoibar, Spain.

It was Brown who pushed the pace on with three kilometres remaining to reduce the leading group to three but, slipping as he went, he was unable to sustain a burst to drop either Guerra or Tergat.

"I felt I had a win in me but there were not enough places to go hard and wear down the opposition," Brown said.

Ian Mackie, who is expected to succeed Linford Christie as Britain's No 1 100 metres runner next summer, won his first indoor 60 metres of the season in the Scottish championships in Glasgow yesterday.

While Colin Jackson maintained progress towards a 60 metres hurdles and flat double at the world indoor championships in Paris in March, winning the hurdles in 7.6sec, Mackie — who won the sprint in 6.75sec — said he would be missing the world event.

Sandbach prosper despite split decision

THE splitting of the Snickers schools football competition into two tournaments has already proved its worth (John Goodbody writes).

So dominant had sixth form colleges become in the under-19 competition that many schools were refusing to enter their county rounds and the numbers taking part had dropped from a peak of 2,500 to 1,500 last season.

Peter Hughes, the secretary of the English Schools Football Association (ESFA), said: "This meant that many players were not having the opportunity of reaching the national squad, because the competition gave them a platform to impress selectors."

The ESFA decided to separate the entries into two competitions: the sixth form colleges and individual schools "which contain at least 100 pupils of under statutory leaving age [16] on its role".

Hughes said: "We are already pleased with the response and we hope that by next season we will be back up towards the 2,500 schools which used to enter."

Both tournaments have reached the national stage and, in the schools' section, Sandbach, of Cheshire, already have already caused a surprise.

After upsetting Poynton H.S. Macclesfield and

Queen's Park, Chester in the county tournament, they beat Archbishop Beck, of Aintree, 3-2 in the first national round last Wednesday. They have a formidable defence, built round Mark Russell, a county player, and a lively attack, led by Donald Booth.

Paul Harrington, the manager-in-charge of football, said: "Unlike most schools, we concentrated on rugby last year and it is difficult for us to get any continuity when we are only having cup games. By having a foot in each camp, we are usually prevented from competing at the highest level."

Reflecting on a blueprint for change — a sort of white paper proposing more than 100 suggestions intended to reinvigorate the sport — published by the All England Netball Association last week, the national captain said she was disappointed that suggestions to introduce football-style red and yellow cards have been shelved.

"Discipline at international level is an increasing problem," she said. "In the ten years I have been playing for England, the game has become more physical and faster — but then it needs to be faster, more like basketball, if we are to attract spectators."

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
CHARTER: Eleanor Mary Frances
Scheme: 00044840/02/01/01
The Commission has received a copy of the draft Scheme for the sale of the property of the charity, 12 Duke Street, London, EC2A 2LL, and has decided to grant the Scheme.

LEGAL NOTICES

NO. 007237 OF 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF GALL THOMSON INVESTMENT PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 23 December 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the winding up of the said company, GALL THOMSON INVESTMENT PLC, and that the said Petition is now pending for consideration of the court.

LEGAL NOTICES

NO. 007096 OF 1996
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OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
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CYCLING

Britain to host new stage race

GREAT Britain will have a new international stage race this summer to replace the Milk Race, last held in 1993, and the Kellogg's Tour, which disappeared a year later (Peter Bryan writes).

The man behind the new event is Brian Elliott, the former organiser of the Milk Race. The race date, although not confirmed, is understood to be scheduled for August 19 to 23, starting two days after Britain stages a World Cup event, and conveniently occupying a provisional date reserved by the British Cycling Federation on the international calendar. It will be open to national and trade teams.

Elliott would not name the sponsor nor indicate the race route. "It's not fixed yet but we hope to have good news in the next few weeks," he said. "We are very close to getting this sorted out."

As it will, follow the World Cup event, Elliott's race should attract several top continental teams. The first positive reaction to the new race came yesterday from Mick Morrison, the director of the powerful Team Ambrosia. "It's great news," he said. "The date is now on the team's programme and we will be seeking an invitation."

THE TIMES PRESENTS

Valentine's Day

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Tell someone you love them in 12 words or more...

Once again, The Times offers the most romantic environment for your Valentine's Day messages. Through our exclusive arrangement with Maxwell & Kennedy, we will send on your behalf specially selected luxury chocolates in a delightful heart shaped box, together with a card which reads: "Look for your message in The Times on Valentine's Day."

In addition the most original Valentine message published will win a weekend break for two to the romantic city of Paris including flights and hotels (to be taken before 30th June 1997). There will also be a runner-up prize of a case of champagne.

Write your message below (Clear word past date - 14th February 3 lines)	Prize 1 - £1000	Prize 2 - £500	Prize 3 - £250	Prize 4 - £100	Prize 5 - £50

YOUR DETAILS

Name: _____
Address: _____
Post Code: _____
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I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____
Or debit my credit card by £ _____
Card expiry date: _____
Card No: _____
Signature: _____

YOUR VALENTINE'S DETAILS

Name: _____
Address: _____
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Tick-box if you would like to send a gift ☐

Please send the coupon with remittance to:
Valentine's Messages, The Times, PO Box 484, 1 Virgile Street, London E1 9BL.
Fax: 0171 782 7799.
E Mail: Beverly.Brown@times.co.uk
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS: 0171 481 4000
All prizes are subject to availability.
Standard terms and conditions apply.

Jenkins passes 500 points as disappointing Scotland are sunk in five-minute burst of scoring

Wales breathe fire into hopes of modern revival

Scotland.....19
Wales.....34

BY GERALD DAVIES

IF THIS victory, Wales' first at Murrayfield since 1985, is anything to go by, then it may be said that the dragon is breathing again. There was nothing restrained about Wales' mood, nor any sense of uncertainty about their five nations' championship campaign opened on Saturday.

There has been resolve in the past, but it was weighed down by the burden of too much expectation; there was a will to win, but it lacked conviction. They were made to look forlorn. Yet on this occasion, from the first scrum, when Scott Quinell picked up quickly and charged into the heart of the Scotland defence, there was an earnestness and urgency about Wales that, conspicuously, never left them.

With their underdresses, Emerging Wales, having lost embarrassingly by more than 50 points the night before, it was a matter not of finally wanting to win but, ruthlessly, a case of having to. Nevertheless, while they were resolute of purpose, Wales' success also had touches of finesse and joyful attack. They scored four tries, with each in turn, although initiated differently, involving some thrilling running.

For a change, too, as Jonathan Humphreys, the captain, admitted afterwards, Lady Luck smiled upon them. He did not apologise for that. Last year, he reminded us, the capricious lady had turned her back upon the Welsh and they lost matches that they might so easily have won had she not cast her gifts elsewhere.

In particular, Humphreys was referring to the blistering five-minute period between the eleventh and sixteenth minutes of the second half when Wales scored the three tries that effectively put them beyond the reach of Scotland. The prologue to two of these saw the ball's deflection off its bounce away in Wales' favour.

They had begun forcefully, but instead of entering the interval period level at 10-10, Chalmers dropped a goal before the break and the Scots led 13-10. Shepherd's penalty kick then extended the lead immediately after the restart.

This was much against the run of play. Territorially, at least, Wales had the better of the exchanges. Arwel Thomas, as inventive on this occasion as he had been floundering in Dublin last season, split the defence with a swiftly deceptive run. From the ensuing position, Gibbs, Charvis, Evans and Gareth Thomas



CHAMPIONSHIP

paved the way for a beautifully constructed try for Jenkins. From the restart, Howley's high up-and-under caused confusion in the Scotland defence. Arwel Thomas got a foot to the loose ball. Logan's deflection did not find his support and the Welsh stand-off half gratefully collected the ball and sprinted away, chased by Hastings, for his try. Moments later, Jenkins' careful but, for Scotland, cruel chip was haplessly misjudged by Shepherd and the ball was snatched out of the air by Evans, who sprinted clear for his 31st try for his country, but his first at Murrayfield. Scotland were nonplussed by this barrage of points.

In truth, the home team rarely played with their usual verve. Apart from Townsend, who, even when back-peddalling, still managed to find holes on a couple of occasions in a grimly unyielding Welsh defence, Scotland were subdued and only modestly cohesive. Rarely can a Welsh back row have held such an advantage over their Scottish counterparts. Even when Scotland managed to steal Wales' ball

in the loose phases, the threats posed by Wallace, Walton and Wainwright were indecisive and did not go far.

Wales' hard core was provided by the players returned from rugby league. Scott Quinell was a powerful presence at No 8 and Bateman and Gibbs provided a superlative pairing in midfield, which will no doubt advance their claims for selection for the British Isles' tour of South Africa.

Shepherd and Jenkins had scored the first points in the first half with a penalty each and then converted the brilliant tries that followed, both of which stemmed from clever midfield play. Townsend's fingertip pass gave Hastings his try and Bateman, on a superb, curving run, created the space for Gibbs and Quinell to combine for the No 8's try.

In converting all the tries, scoring one himself and adding a further penalty towards the end, after Shepherd had kicked his total of points for his country to 517.

The exhilaration that followed in the immediate aftermath of this victory was moderated by a single but ultimately critical thought for Wales. Does this victory truly mark a change in Welsh fortunes? Can we expect more to come by the season's end? Or is it one of those mornings of early promise that fade by late afternoon? With the difficult away match over, Wales have two home games for the triple crown. Anticipation is high.

SCORES: Scotland: Try: Hastings Conversion: Shepherd Penalty goals: Shepherd (3) Off trapped goal: Chalmers. Wales: Tries: S Quinell, Jenkins, A Thomas, Evans. Conversions: Jenkins (4) Penalty goals: Jenkins (2).
SCOTLAND: R Shepherd (Melrose), A Stanger (Hawick), S Hastings (Watson), G Townsend (Glasgow), K Logan (Glasgow), C Chalmers (Melrose), G Armstrong (Newcastle), D Wilson (Edin), G Ellis (Glasgow), M Stewart (Northampton), P Walton (Newcastle), G Watt (Newcastle), A Reid (Warrack), R Wainwright (Warrack), captain Reed replaced by S Munro (Glasgow High Kelso), S Smith (Glasgow High Kelso), replaced by D Stark (Melrose, 75).
WALES: N Jenkins (Pontypool), I Evans (Llanelli), A Bateman (Richmond), S Gibbs (Swansea), G Thomas (Bristol), A Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff), C Loader (Swansea), J Humphreys (Cardiff), captain, D Young (Cardiff), S Williams (Neath), G Unwin (Rugby), M Rowley (Pontypool), C Charles (Swansea), S Quinell (Richmond), Rowley replaced by C Quinlan (Richmond), S Jones replaced by G Jones (Cardiff, 75), Gibbs replaced by J Davies (Cardiff, 75).
Referee: H A Smith (Wales)



Scott Quinell fends off Logan as Wales go on the offensive once again at Murrayfield on Saturday. Photograph: David Rogers / Allsport

Prodigals in league lay path to victory

Mark Souster considers the impact that the players who have returned to their union roots had on the Murrayfield match

What delicious irony. The first fully professional rugby union championship and all the talk before and after Wales' comprehensive dismantling of Scotland was of the men who had been in a league of their own: the prodigal sons who had broken hearts in the valleys by joining their friends in the North.

The two Scotts — Quinell and Gibbs — the latter's colleague in the centre, Allan Bateman, and David Young, the prop, players who had opted to take the money and run, had held centre stage in the build-up to this match, and did so, too, when it mattered.

Gibbs and Bateman were the rocks upon which Scotland's hopes foundered. Only once were they undone, by Gregor Townsend's brilliant intuition. Otherwise they hit and hit hard, as Craig Chal-

mers discovered early on when he bounced off Gibbs' barrel chest.

Gibbs is literally immense, as potent in attack as in defence, a pocket battleship who poured through the middle, taking defenders in numbers with him when he went, but who was still able to offload a telling pass. He was probably not fully fit on Saturday, but he was still too strong, too determined and too rugby wise for Scotland.

He is a more mature individual for his three years away, one who better understands his responsibilities. Where once taxi drivers incurred his wrath, now it is the opposition. Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain, talked of the extra edge, the extra dimension, the ring of

steel that Gibbs and his colleagues had brought back with them.

"The rugby league boys bring a great mental attitude to the job," Humphreys said. "It is a long time since I have looked around the Welsh dressing-room and seen everyone so confident. Some of Scott Gibbs' hits were phenomenal. There is a more mature outlook in the squad, as well as belief and determination."

When Bateman, who played for Maesteg and Neath in chapter one of his union career, converted to league, the sages reckoned that he would be the biggest loss of all to Wales. His return to union with Richmond was low-key, but, in Wales' pre-Christmas internationals and

for the Barbarians, he showed that the footballer's brain was still intact.

He is deceptively quick, as he demonstrated when making the initial break outside Scott Hastings in a move that led to Wales' first try, by Scott Quinell — a try fashioned and executed in the hot-house of rugby league, where players learn to stay on their feet. Gibbs provided the link and the marauding Quinell surged like a bull towards the try line, swatting defenders out of his path with nonchalant ease.

After feeling his way back early on, Quinell became an irresistible force from No 8, his runs causing havoc in the increasingly fractured Scotland defence.

Scotland may point to the

luck of the bounce as a contributory factor in their downfall during those crucial five minutes in the third quarter, but you make your own luck to a large extent, and one felt that, for all their earlier endeavours, Scotland would have eventually been ground down even without those unkind twists of fate that provided tries for Arwel Thomas and Ieuan Evans.

Then there was Neil Jenkins, one of only a handful of players to pass the landmark of 500 points in international rugby. There are plenty more left in his tank.

So Wales are up and running. After years of false dawns and false promises, they showed that they have the potential to be a force. Perhaps Scotland, for whom Chalmers was making his fiftieth appearance, will take a leaf out of their book. Come in Alan Tait, your time has arrived.

Ireland retain competitive instincts

Ireland.....15
France.....32

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBLIN

HOW much encouragement are Ireland entitled to draw from an afternoon when France scored more points than they have managed at Lansdowne Road before? How many times have Ireland reviewed a match in which they can contrive only penalty goals against opponents for whom the try-count offers far more significance?

The harshest critic will say that all Ireland did in their opening match of the five nations' championship on Saturday was to return to where they have been so frequently before: a team capable of playing for 60 minutes before crumbling, a team bereft of a cutting edge and now, moreover, a team short of its captain for, at least, their next encounter, on February 1.

That, as Ireland themselves would say, depends on where you are coming from. "Two weeks ago we were dead as dead could be," Keith Wood, the injured captain, said, referring to the defeat by Italy. "We have had only a week in which we have tried to change a lot."

He had a point. Any team throwing key selection issues into the air and adding a new coach for good measure will take time to settle. Yet, when you are down and out, nobody loves you.

One moment just before the interval crystallised the "luck" of the Irish. They put together a sequence of play unrivalled in the match, moving the ball sensibly, smashing into rucks and generally setting France back on their heels, yet all the while Wood had been left prone with a dislocated shoulder joint which will need two to six weeks' rest and may take him out of the entire championship.

What this Irish Permanent international did offer was genuine competition, and that is as important for Ireland

now as anything else. They need the confidence of knowing that they are not merely makeweights; that players such as Eric Miller, Jeremy Davidson and David Corkery are contenders for the British Isles team — all forwards, it will be noted, and that is where the Ireland plan of campaign falls down.

Their pack played so strongly for an hour that even their midfield, which is far too sluggish in moving the ball, was able to outflank France a couple of times. With France intent on attacking on the short side, and then limited by a leg injury to Alain Penaud, the contrast was not marked until Stéphane Glas, suddenly released in the final quarter, began to treat the middle of Lansdowne Road as his own private domain.

From the surprised delight of a 15-12 lead with 20 minutes remaining, Ireland found themselves trailing once more

to David Venditti's second try and began to attempt unheeded moves, ball in hand, that left them horribly exposed.

"We lost our shape and some players made decisions which, upon reflection, they

France officials have been asked to view an incident in which Allan Clarke, the hooker, was kicked in the face, apparently by Franck Tournaire, the France prop. Ireland officials "have handed the matter over to the French," a statement said.

may think were not wise," Brian Ashton, the coaching adviser, said.

Ashton would probably give his eye teeth for his native England's problems at centre. Ireland have nobody in midfield with quick hands, nor with the stabbing acceleration

of Glas or Thomas Castaignède.

It may be that they were let off to some degree. France were not entirely confident of the match fitness of Castaignède, Ntamack or Sadourny and therefore chose to play the game nearer their powerful forwards.

The dominant figure was Fabien Pelous, the young Dax No 8 who moved to lock when Miorin was replaced by Castel. He dominated France's share of the lineout and is becoming increasingly formidable about the field, as one of two yellow cards suggests.

The other went to Merle, who took exception to Wood hurrying over the top of a ruck into his chest like a missile. To be fair to Merle, Wood's capacity for suicidal charges verges on the dangerous and may well cost him a Lions place — either through injury or because of his propensity to concede penalties.

On any other day Venditti's three tries would be cause for substantial celebration, save that he had only to finish what others had done, much of it from possession passed over by Ireland.

Gallhié's was the first of four tries, the referee overlooking a fumble as the France forwards powered their way from a lineout to leave the scrum half with an inviting hole. His pass also gave Venditti a simple try, but all the while Elwood was accepting penalty chances from André Watson, the South African referee, who had watched France's propensity for offside in the A international 24 hours earlier and was in no mind to see them repeat it under his charge.

An interval score of 12-12 was improved further by Elwood, but, sadly for Ireland, it was from a penalty given awarded during the one clear-cut chance that they had of scoring a try. The forwards came within a metre, but all the backs could not capitalise, and the France forwards shook themselves and carried the match to Ireland.

The running of the tight forwards reduced Ireland to grim defence. Venditti crossed again and Castaignède, who did much of the limping Penaud's work in defence, added two penalty goals. That Sadourny sent Venditti over again deep into added time was hard for Ireland, but not, at that stage, unexpected.

SCORES: Ireland: Penalty goals: Elwood (2), Francis, Trier, Venditti (3). Gallhié Conversion: Castaignède (2).
IRELAND: G M P O'Shea (London Irish), J A Topley (Bath), J C Ball (Northampton), M J Field (Bristol), D J O'Leary (Cardiff), E P Elwood (Lansdowne), N A Hogan (Lansdowne College), N J Poppell (Newcastle), K G M Wood (Harlequins, captain), P S Wallace (Swansea), D S Corkery (Bristol), P S Jones (Swansea), J W Davidson (London Irish), W D McBride (Melrose), E R P Miller (Leicester). Field replaced by K P McCullin (Lansdowne, 15-22, 47min); Wood replaced by A T H Clarke (Northampton, 30); Poppell replaced by P Flavin (Blackrock College, 65).
FRANCE: J L Sadourny (Colomiers), E Ntamack (Toulouse), S Glas (Bordeaux), T Castaignède (Toulouse), D Venditti (Bordeaux), A Penaud (Bordeaux), F Gallhié (Colomiers), C Gollins (Toulouse), M Delmas (Agen), F Tournaire (Bordeaux), A Benayss (Agen, captain), O Merle (Montpellier), N Miorin (Toulouse), P Benetton (Agen), F Pelous (Dax), J L Jordana (Toulouse) temporary replacement for Callena (20-30).
Referee: A Watson (South Africa)

Ashton's pure romantics eventually lose the plot

SIMON BARNES



At Lansdowne Road

Ireland has called on an Englishman before when in search of sporting viability. Brian Ashton, a Lancastrian and the bizarrely-titled "coaching adviser" to the Ireland rugby union team, has a hard act to follow.

The story of the Ireland football team under Jack Charlton is a strange one, a romantic tale in which Charlton, with all his beloved eccentricities, became an honorary leprechaun and took his team to the quarter-finals of the World Cup, a match against Italy in Rome.

We are left with the pleasant myth that Charlton lifted the team to dizzy heights by a mixture of charm, Irish luck and romantic aspiration. It is quite a nice story, but the truth is the complete opposite.

I quoted Don Revie, the former England manager, only last week, but I must serve up the same line again: "As soon as it dawned on me that we were short of players who combined skill and commitment, I should have forgotten all about trying to play more controlled, attractive football, and settled for a real bastard of a team."

I do not think that Charlton nurses vain regrets on this score, and, on the evidence of Ireland's thundering performance against France on Saturday, I don't think Ashton will, either. Charlton's Ireland were awful to watch without partisan spectacles: the *Gazzetta dello Sport* headlined their report of the Ireland v England game of the 1990 World Cup: "Niente calcio, siamo Britannici" — no football please, we're British. They were doubly awful to play against. The best teams in the world learnt to dread playing Ireland. They became the Wimbledon of international football.

Charlton's achievement was to change the perspective of Irish footballers. They no longer thought: "Well, we are lucky to be here among the great football nations." They thought: "We have a right to

be here and to get stuck in."

Many underdog teams at all levels of sport go into a big match seeking to flatter. They attempt to match the skills of the sophisticates. They know they will lose, but that is all right, for they have earned the right to play on the big stage. As a battle-plan, it is sycophantic and self-defeating.

Underdogs who seek not self-respect, but victory, take a different road. They seek a strategy that will rattle the overdogs, attack their complacency. It has been the tradition of Irish teams in all sports, especially rugby union, to play with "passion", that is to say, a licence to charge about like headless chickens.

On Saturday, that passion was canalised into commitment. Ireland set out to implement a grinding, horrible, brutal game-plan. France, rattled and jolted, committed all kinds of foolish offences. They were constantly penalised. They also lost possession in the tackle again and again. The Irish players were very fierce. They were also always in the right place for the hammering and grinding.

"One for the purists," a colleague told me at half-time, with solemn irony. But, in a way, it was pure. I fancy it must have been like the old boys' match in *Stalky & Co.*

"The technique of that match belongs to a bygone age. Scrimmages were tight and enduring; hacking was direct and to the purpose; and round the scrimmage stood the school, crying, 'Put your heads down and shove! Towards the end everybody lost all sense of decency, and mothers of day-boys too close to the touchline heard language not included in the rules.'"

It was a glorious hour, and Ireland won it 15-12, all penalties from the boot of Eric Elwood. It was an hour in which Ireland believed they had a right to play a low, mean and utterly purposeful game. "Passion will only take you through the first 15 minutes," Ashton said afterwards. "Every side plays with passion. The idea is to translate this into intensity — and to concentrate for 80 minutes."

The match went wrong for Ireland three times. The first was when France scored their second try. I even wrote "all over" in my notebook. But it wasn't. Then the captain and talisman, Keith Wood, went off with a dislocated shoulder, and I thought that would be the end. But it was not.

Overcoming two great reverses was magnificent. It was the third that did for them. France's third try was the end. There is a stupid and altogether amateurish convention in rugby union that states that any side, once losing, is entitled to play like a set of bloody fools. It is called "playing catch-up", and it always leads to an exaggerated margin of defeat. Ireland, jettisoning their game-plan and reverting to "romantic" and "passionate" type, allowed the French to open up and cruise out of sight.

Ashton has had a mere week to play Jack Charlton. Already he has introduced such things as purpose, coherence and brutal pragmatism. That is the right way to begin a story of sport. No romance, please, we're Irish.



Wallace attempts to halt the advance of a rampaging Benazzi at Lansdowne Road

Championship welcomes return of the dragon



Townsend: out of form

Just as reports of the death of the five nations championship have been shown to be greatly exaggerated, those in recent times about the demise of Wales are proving to be unfounded. The old dragon, breathed fire at Murrayfield on Saturday and while it is far too early for Wales to get carried away, England and the rest will note this apparent resurgence extremely carefully.

It is significant that the last weekend of the championship brings Wales and England together at Cardiff. For several years, perhaps too many, England and France have dominated. Wales seem to be emerging as a strong force again. Even in their defeat by South Africa last month, the potential was there to be seen and, in winning away from home, they are off to the best possible start.

After watching Wales, Jack Rowell, the England coach, has every reason to be a bit worried. It is important, however, that England forget about that particular enemy and concentrate on another: Scotland, at Twickenham in 12 days time. Your first game is, in many ways, the most vital. Wales will be buoyed by an away victory, knowing they have Ireland next, at home, and England must get a good victory under their belts against Scotland if they are to apply the pressure this year.

I remain convinced that the championship this year is more open than for some time, but that Scotland and, more especially, Ireland, are lagging behind. Many respects, Wales have shown that by the addition of two or three individuals with some spark, they can be transformed. That is where Scotland are struggling. Gregor Townsend can be their inspiration, but, frankly, he is not playing well and, for all his silky skills, he did not relish the contact area on Saturday. The question of whether he is a centre or stand-off half has to be resolved quickly by Scotland's selectors.

It is no coincidence with Wales that the turnaround in their fortunes has coincided with the arrival of the returnees from rugby league. In the midfield, the tackling of Scott Gibbs and Allan Bateman was immense. Rugby union still has much to learn from rugby league when it comes to defence. League players pride themselves on their big hits, as much as their prowess in attack, whereas in union there is still a slight reticence to concentrate on defensive work.

Scott Quinnell was another former league player who made a huge impact at No. 8. Opposite him, I am not sure that No. 8 is the position for Rob Wainwright. He can perhaps make a better contribution on either flank, although he is just back from injury and his form will improve. The plain fact is, though, that Scotland face some stark choices ahead of the England encounter.

For Wales, Arwel Thomas had his best game at No. 10. He has always looked a good footballer, although the worry persists that better sides will always target him because of his size. The jury is still out on him.

The choice of Neil Jenkins at full back does smack somewhat of finding a position for their place-kicker, and then there is the question of having someone of Jonathan Davies' talent on the bench. Either he is in the side or you do not bother picking him, surely?

Rob Andrew believes other countries must take note of a powerful performance



Gibbs: pride in defence

Six into three will go; but which three, as far as England are concerned, remains a conundrum

Quick solution required for numbers game

As important as any of the selections, that will be announced today, for the England side to meet Scotland at Twickenham on Saturday week, is the back-row combination. It is not simply a case of perming three from the six back-row forwards in the squad — Lawrence Dallaglio, Tim Rodber and Chris Sheasby, who all figured in the three matches before Christmas, and Neil Back, Ben Clarke and Richard Hill — but getting the balance right so that England play the way they want.

A successful back row consists of a clogger, a carrier and a creator, from No. 6 to No. 8. England are lacking at a thin seam in respect of all three positions. Indeed, it was the backbone of the team — the middle five of half backs and back row — that crumbled against the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina.

Of course, a back row can only be as effective as the ball won for it by the tight five, but the combination of back row and lock forward is easier to fashion than flankers and No. 8.

Christopher Irvine turns to some great names of the past for their solutions to England's problems in the back row

are Dallaglio, Back or Hill, of Saracens. Rees is concerned that England will opt for power, in which case Dallaglio might remain. Rather, he sees development of the rapid recycling game, along New Zealand lines, as imperative.

The game now is about keeping the ball alive past the gain line, and not letting the situation whereby you might have an overlap die," Rees said. "England are still too slow. That's where Winterbottom was so good. As well as clever distribution, he would stop the opposition dead."

It's a continuing debate whether you play the shorter Neil Back (5ft 10in) or someone bigger. Most open-sides are around 6ft. He must read the lines of running, stop the opposition, but, above all, have vision. Dallaglio coming off the tail of the lineout can be sucked in by the opposition backs. With Back, the opposition can drive it closer and tackle him out. I think you need an individual, like Richard Hill, in between."

"Before you start with the back row, the half backs have to be sorted out, in order to get the midfield guys being hit with the ball earlier. England have looked as if they had no idea what plan A, never mind plan B, was about. When it got tough, New Zealand showed their greater awareness and skills. We've still got to get used to the idea of selfless running off the ball."

In his old position, Scott advocates a policy of back to the future. "We already have a class No. 8," he said. "With Dean Richards's attitude and experience, I can't imagine why he's not there. He's fitter now than he's ever been and playing some of his best rugby, but England have been locked into thinking for three or four years that the past is the past. The spine of your pack is hooker and No. 8, and with Dean you've the solid base. The flankers slot in."

There's not a lot at open-side. Back's as good as we've got, but the attitude to him sums up England's problem. They worry if a player's too old, too young, too small. Their thinking about selection — even the way England play — isn't right. There are players out there, but selectors aren't going out to see them.

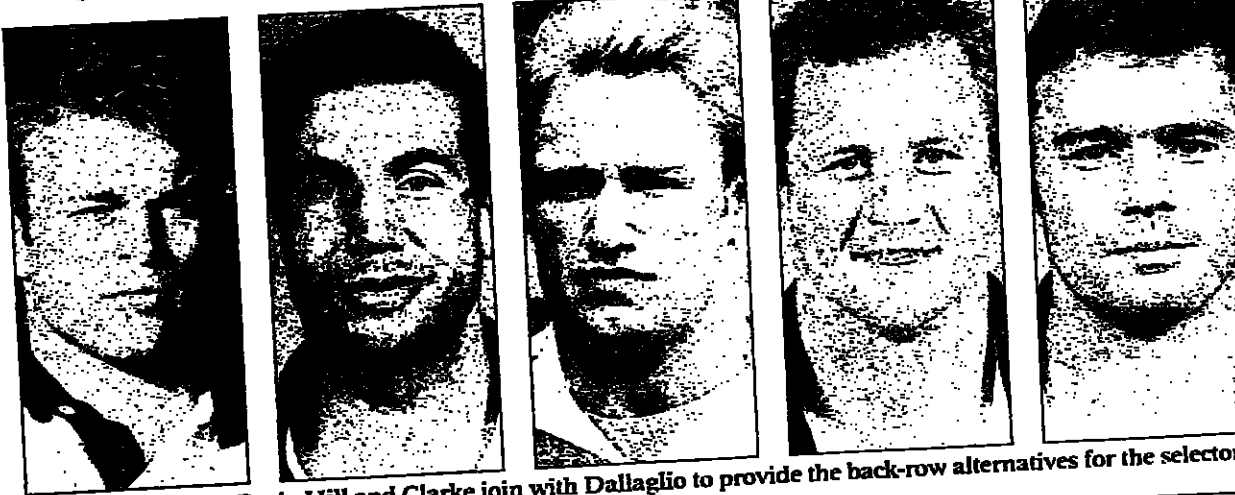
In the early Eighties they'd give young guys a go, chuck them out after a game, then Geoff Cooke came along as coach and he looked and listened and learnt, and stuck with his guys. You select your strongest side and stick with it; not allowing the gremlins in."

Scott would opt for Dallaglio (blind-side), Back (open-side) and Richards (No. 8). Urdy would choose Dallaglio, Back and Sheasby; Rees would include Hill.

Dallaglio, Back or Hill, of Saracens. Rees is concerned that England will opt for power, in which case Dallaglio might remain. Rather, he sees development of the rapid recycling game, along New Zealand lines, as imperative.



Dallaglio, championed by many at the start of the season for the England captaincy, now finds his place in doubt



Rodber, Sheasby, Back, Hill and Clarke join with Dallaglio to provide the back-row alternatives for the selectors

Grayson's kicking skill could tip balance

By DAVID HANDS

ENGLAND, having watched the other contenders in the five nations' championship in action over the weekend, today reveal their team for the defence of the championship they won last year on the back of Paul Grayson's kicking. They play Scotland at Twickenham on February 1 and one of several contentious issues to be resolved is whether Grayson returns to the fold.

Coincidentally, the Northampton stand-off half, who won five caps and scored 81 points last season, faced Mike Catt yesterday in the league match with Bath. Catt's last chance to confirm the place he has occupied for England this season in their three international matches before Christmas. Not that scoring has been Catt's problem, since 43 points is no bad return for an occasional goalkicker, but it is his generalship that is in question.

The choice of stand-off may also govern selection at scrum half, because Alex King must enter the equation too. Successful with England a last season, an England replacement this season, King's claims as an all-round footballer have been enhanced with Wasps, where he partners Andy Gomarsall. There is a degree of logic in opting for a club pairing — as with Grayson and Matt Dawson, now injured last season — but Gomarsall has attracted only mixed reviews since his successful debut against Italy in November.

If debate over the key tactical areas of back row and half back were not enough, we may also reach a resolution over the centres, where the three primary contenders, Phil de Glanville, Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott, have been joined by a fourth in Will Greenwood, who has recovered his best form in Leicester's run to the Heineken Cup final.

Institute of Legal Executives Autumn 1996 Examination Part II

<p>The following have passed The Institute of Legal Executives Part II Autumn 1996 Membership examinations.</p> <p>A Court L A; Adams J; Adams M; Adams N; Adams O; Adams P; Adams Q; Adams R; Adams S; Adams T; Adams U; Adams V; Adams W; Adams X; Adams Y; Adams Z; Adams AA; Adams AB; Adams AC; Adams AD; Adams AE; Adams AF; Adams AG; Adams AH; Adams AI; Adams AJ; Adams AK; Adams AL; Adams AM; Adams AN; Adams AO; Adams AP; Adams AQ; Adams AR; Adams AS; Adams AT; Adams AU; Adams AV; Adams AW; Adams AX; Adams AY; Adams AZ; Adams BA; Adams BB; Adams BC; Adams BD; Adams BE; Adams BF; Adams BG; Adams BH; Adams BI; Adams BJ; Adams BK; Adams BL; Adams BM; Adams BN; Adams BO; Adams BP; Adams BQ; Adams BR; Adams BS; Adams BT; Adams BU; Adams BV; Adams BW; Adams BX; Adams BY; Adams BZ; Adams CA; Adams CB; Adams CC; Adams CD; Adams CE; Adams CF; Adams CG; Adams CH; Adams CI; Adams CJ; Adams CK; Adams CL; Adams CM; Adams CN; Adams CO; Adams CP; Adams CQ; Adams CR; Adams CS; Adams CT; Adams CU; Adams CV; 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BASKETBALL

Derby ring changes on road to play-offs

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

IF THE impressively large contingent of supporters who follow Derby Storm around the country ever have problems identifying their own team, then it is hardly their fault. Hardly a week goes by when a player is not added to the squad or another one departs.

So far, the Storm have used 25 players this turbulent season, far more than any other club in the Budweiser League. Ever since early October, when the flamboyant Rod Gregoire was sent back to New Orleans after an altercation with a policeman, the turnover has gained increasing momentum, with little apparent harm to Derby's league position.

However, the time has come to stop. After Derby had moved up to sixth place in the table and within sight of the play-offs after the 108-88 victory at Hemel and Watford Royals on Saturday, their coach, Jeff Jones, said: "I've got the personnel I want now, so I'm a bit sceptical about making any more changes."

As good as Gregoire was, Jones has since put his faith in solid characters. "I've gone away from the Gregoire type," he said. "I've gone with guys who give us stability, work hard and get the job done." Among the glut of talented newcomers are four English players, Bryan Bolser and David Agnew arrived from Siena University in New York to join up with Garnet Gayle and Wayne Mulgrave, both of whom had been released by Manchester Giants.

"I'm going to keep the nucleus of the English guys," Jones said after seeing them all score at Hemel Hempstead, Curtis Robinson, one of the few Americans to survive the purge, led Derby's scorers, with 24 points. There was also a 20-point contribution from his compatriot, Laurence Pearson.

With Jimmy Ratcliffe almost recovered from a stress frac-

ture and nine of their remaining 15 fixtures at home, Jones is confident of Derby's play-off chances. "We'll be all right," he said.

After their first win in 26 games at Crystal Palace's expense last week, the Royals encountered the more familiar feeling of defeat, but at least they had an excuse. They were without Ray Schultz, who had flu, as did three other players. Two who escaped it were Allen Koochoff, the team's top marksman with 18 points, and Derek Vogel, whose 17 points included a flurry of seven during a two-minute spell in the second quarter that was the only interruption to a decisive Derby burst of 25-7.

Like the Royals, Worthing Bears and Thames Valley Tigers are two clubs who will almost certainly not figure in the play-offs. Worthing must have thought they would coast home against Thames Valley after sinking the first 11 points, but it was anything but an easy ride. Grateful for 35 points from James Hamilton, they scraped a 86-83 win after the Tigers had gone into the final quarter leading 67-64.

Colin Irish, the former Worthing player-coach, who has signed for Manchester Giants after his release by the French club, Choler, is expected to make his debut in the home game against Chester Jets, the league leaders, on Wednesday.

Deil Curry scored his 10,000th career point and made five three-pointers to lead the Charlotte Hornets to their fourth straight victory, 102-92 over the New Jersey Nets.

Curry, who has played in the National Basketball Association (NBA) for ten years and was one of the original members of the Hornets, became the 202nd NBA player to reach the milestone. He did it with his specialty, the three-point shot, late in the second quarter on his way to gathering 27 points.



Kristian Ghedina, of Italy, powers to his third World Cup downhill victory of the season on Saturday. He covered the Lauberhorn course, in Switzerland, in the record time of 2min 24.36sec. Luc Alphand, of France, the World Cup

downhill champion, was second in 2min 24.36sec, ahead of Fritz Strobl and Werner Franz, both of Austria, in 2min 24.62sec and 2min 24.63sec. "I was really relaxed and confident coming into the race," Ghedina, who won the

Lauberhorn event in 1995, said, "but I didn't think Luc would be my main adversary today. His training runs didn't look that great, but on race day he becomes a different person. He's a racing beast."

Results, page 38

Wiberg continues to dominate slalom

PERNILLA WIBERG, of Sweden, continued her dominance of the women's slalom in the Alpine skiing World Cup with her third victory of the season in the discipline yesterday. Wiberg, the overall World Cup leader, defied an icy piste in Zwisel, Germany, to record her fifth World Cup triumph, with an aggregate time of 1min 33.52sec. Elfi Eder, of Austria, took second place with 1:35.21, with Deborah Compagnoni, of Italy, third, in 1:35.60.

The victory helped Wiberg to stretch her lead in the overall World Cup rankings to 328 points after third and fourth places in giant slaloms on Friday and Saturday, respectively. Katja Seizinger, Germany's defending champion, who finished seventh in the slalom, stayed second overall. "That was one of the fastest slaloms on the tour," Wiberg said. "It was easy to ski out of it. It's great to win like this and get closer to my main goal — the slalom World Cup."

McNulty pulls clear

GOLF: Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, won his fourth South African Masters title yesterday, his final round of 67 enabling him to finish four strokes ahead of Adilson da Silva, of Brazil, who had led at the halfway stage of the tournament, held at San Lameer Country Club, Port Edward. McNulty and Da Silva were level with nine holes to play but the Zimbabwean broke the deadlock with birdies at the 12th and 13th holes, pulling away to record a four-round total of 276. Van Phillips, of Britain, finished joint fifth after a final round of 69.

Karrie Webb, of Australia, birdied three of the final five holes on the way to a two-under par 70 on Saturday to share the lead with Michelle McGann after two rounds of the LPGA Inaugural in Orlando, Florida.

Triumph for Japan

MOTOR RALLYING: Kenjiro Shinozuka, in a Mitsubishi, completed the first Japanese victory in the Dakar rally yesterday, while Stephane Peterhansel secured his fifth victory in the motorcycle section on a Yamaha. Peterhansel, from France, came fifth on the final stage, from Saint-Louis to Dakar, but finished more than 2½ hours ahead, overall, of Oscar Gallardo, from Spain.

Oldham bid farewell

RUGBY LEAGUE: Oldham brought down the curtain on 107 years of rugby at their Watersheddings ground with a 20-16 win over Swinton in a rerun of the match that opened the stadium back in 1889. Nearly 5,000 supporters turned up for the nostalgic occasion and Oldham signed off with tries by John Clark, their hooker, Rob Myler and Joe McNicholas, the wings, and Vince Fawcett, a centre.

Sheffield breakthrough

ICE HOCKEY: Sheffield Steelers and Cardiff Devils met for the fifth time in this season's Superleague on Saturday and, for the first time, the Steelers won. Sheffield led 5-0 by the ninth minute and although Cardiff fought back to 5-4 with two minutes left, they could not snatch a draw. The win took the Steelers to within a point of the Devils at the top of the table with a game in hand.

First prize for Stranraer

CURLING: Hammy McMillan and his three-times European championship-winning quartet from Stranraer won the £5,000 first prize at the Bull International Trophy Tournament in Grindelwald, Switzerland, yesterday. In the final, McMillan's team overcame a Winterthur side headed by Andre Flotron — the man he beat for his second European title in 1995 — 4-3.

RUGBY UNION: BOTTOM FOUR BECOMING DETACHED IN COURAGE FIRST DIVISION AS LEICESTER TAKE OVER AT THE TOP

Sleightholme proves Bath's Sunday best

Bath	52
Northampton	14

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BATH will begin to think that there is something in Sunday rugby after this performance. The switch yesterday was their first in the Courage Clubs Championship and what made it all the sweeter was the defeat of Harlequins away to Saracens, which means that Bath have made up ground on yet another of their rivals at the top of the first division.

There was also the small matter of the defeat at Northampton last November to consider. That 9-0 loss could be seen as the jolt that has

made this such an uneven season for Bath, and the last thing they wanted was a repeat of that dismal experience, though Northampton must have acknowledged when they agreed to this fixture that a league double was unlikely.

Given their absences on international duty, Northampton could have postponed the game, but they played to avoid a pile-up of games late in the season. However, added to the four players involved with Ireland and Scotland were injuries to Dawson, Rodder, Walsh and Pountney, and the Recreation Ground is no place to arrive when missing half a team.

Not, at any rate, when Bath have their full complement of England backs, of whom none made merrier than Jon Sleightholme.

He had the first word and the last in scoring three of Bath's six tries, all of them worth savouring for pace and guile. His third a long-bursting run from his own line after Bath turned over Northampton possession.

Yet Sleightholme would be the first to acknowledge the skilful contribu-

Full results and league tablesPage 38

tion of those inside him, of whom none did better than Dan Lyle, the United States captain. Lyle suffered distinctly mixed fortunes on his country's brief tour of Wales recently, but here he was in his element, a rangy, athletic figure who enjoys

working with ball in hand and bringing off big hits.

Northampton suffered, too, from the loss, in the second quarter, of Paul Grayson, who was badly shaken in a tackle that left him unable to see out of one eye. Nick Beal moved off the wing to replace him Grayson's confrontation with Mike Catt never materialised. Instead, Catt could play his familiar role, as catalyst in so many of the sweeping movements that warmed the shivering crowd.

Moments after Grayson's departure, Northampton led 6-5, though the manner in which Sleightholme opened his account was warning enough — he erupted through mid-field and beat Beal and Hunter for pace. Callard's first two penalty goals gave Bath their 11-6 interval lead and

Catt's chargedown of Beal's kick opened a comfortable gap.

There was no stopping Bath after that. Backs and forwards mingled happily, Catt sending Lyle over for an exultant try. Sleightholme taking a wonderful angle to finish Catt's long run and Mendez recording a popular try after Haag and Lyle played the way.

SARACENS: Bath: Tries: Sleightholme (3), Catt, Lyle, Mendez. Conversions: Callard (3). Penalty goals: Callard (4). Northampton: Tries: MacLoughlin. Penalty goals: Beal (2), Grayson. Bath: J. Callard, J. Sleightholme, P. de Gennaro, J. Grayson, A. Mendez, M. Catt, I. Sanders, F. Mendez, D. Dawson, V. Ugochi, D. Lyle, M. Haag, N. Pountney, A. Robinson, S. Ojemeh. Ugochi replaced by J. Maltby (60th).

Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

Record run propels Gloucester to safety

Gloucester	37
West Hartlepool	10

BY NICHOLAS ANDREWS

ONLY victory in the last game of last season kept Gloucester from the relegation zone. The Rugby Football Union's subsequent largesse notwithstanding, this time around The Shed can rest easy.

Survival was the club's sole ambition when the Courage Clubs Championship programme began again, and, in the first five fixtures, suggested another year of scrapping among the also-rans. However, a record run of six successive victories has lifted Gloucester to mid-table.

The team is playing with the confidence that victory brings. Mark Maplefield is the division's third-highest scorer and, on Saturday, passed 500 points for the club in only his 45th game. The front five are motoring powerfully, with Phil Greening at the wheel, and there was the almost unheard-of phenomenon of three tries for a Gloucester wing, albeit from Mike Lloyd, a former Bath man. Ed Pearce, another refugee from the Recreation Ground, also

caught the eye, filling Pete Gilman's berth on the flank. Ian Smith will not get into this side, even when his broken thumb heals, and so could soon be Bristol-bound. It says a lot for the Gloucester pack that they need not miss him.

Reports of West Hartlepool's recovery have been exaggerated. However, the scoreline failed to reflect their contribution to the first half, when they kept the deficit to eight points. Lloyd's second try, when he caught Matthew Silva's drop-out and charged unimpeded through the defence, was a decisive blow a minute after the restart. Mark Ring's injury-hit squad suffered further as Wayne de Jonge and Michael Wood went off injured.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Lloyd (2), Wood, Maplefield. Conversions: Maplefield (3). Penalty goals: Maplefield (2). Dropper goal: Lloyd. West Hartlepool: Tries: J. Smith. Conversion: Smith. Penalty goal: Smith. Gloucester: J. Greening (14), M. Lloyd (14), P. Greening (14), M. Lloyd (14), P. Greening (14). West Hartlepool: M. Silva (14), M. Wood (14), M. Wood (14), M. Wood (14), M. Wood (14).

Referee: A. Russell (Liverpool).

Healey accelerates his claim for recognition

Leicester	53
Bristol	19

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AUSTIN HEALEY gave a display at Welford Road on Saturday that sparked with wit, impudence and self-belief. These qualities were contained in an outstanding try, and he was the inspiration behind three more.

Against a side as poor as Bristol, international potential is hard to gauge, but Healey, Back and Greenwood have raised their stock considerably.

Of Healey, 23, the third-choice England No 9 behind Andy Gomarsall and Kyran Bracken, Bob Dwyer, Leicester's Australian coach, said: "One quality, his cover defence, is better than any scrum half in the world. His pace in attack is up with the best. You add those qualities and he'd give you that something out of the ordinary, which some see as necessary for the England team. I'd pick him before the incumbent [Gomarsall]."

Dwyer would also find it impossible to omit Greenwood and Back. The pair

linked with immaculate precision for the first of Leicester's six tries after a blind-side break by Healey had blundered the Bristol defence.

Between an audacious tapped penalty to supply Underwood with a try and providing Stranksy with another, Healey initially had Dwyer cursing as he raced from his own line, ignoring a colleague outside him. He made the Bristol 22, however, where Back appeared to be held up, yet got the perfect pass away for Healey's sumptuous score.

Without the injured Healey for the last quarter, Leicester still managed a penalty try, won by Lloyd, and Lyle took his place-kicking haul to 23 points.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Greenwood, Underwood, Healey, Stranksy, Lyle, Dwyer. Conversions: Lyle (4). Penalty goals: Lyle (3). Bristol: Tries: J. Smith. Conversion: Smith. Penalty goal: Smith. Leicester: J. Greening (14), M. Lloyd (14), P. Greening (14), M. Lloyd (14), P. Greening (14). Bristol: M. Silva (14), M. Wood (14), M. Wood (14), M. Wood (14), M. Wood (14).

Referee: J. Pearson (Durham).

Orrell's priorities in need of adjustment

Orrell	48
Sale	8

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ACCORDING to Orrell, this Courage Clubs Championship match at Edgehall Road on Saturday was infinitely more important than the Pilkington Cup tie against the same opponents next weekend. Judging by the result, which leaves them with little left to salvage from their worst league season, they will surely change their priorities.

Not that too many among their shrinking band of supporters will be counting on any marked improvement. In the past two weeks Orrell have thrown in the towel against West Hartlepool and capitulated almost as feebly to Sale.

With ambitions in the league (hopefully a top-four finish) and cup, Sale take the view that every match is of equal importance and the emphatic measure of their win here will boost their confidence.

At full strength, Sale took advantage of Orrell's evident disorganisation, with Dewi Morris marking his return to his former stamping ground

with two sharply-taken tries. That Sale opted for scrums instead of penalties every time Orrell infringed near their own line said a great deal for their attitude; two led directly to tries.

Throughout, Sale looked to be at their most persuasive when Maffinder counter-attacked. It was his forceful running that initially unhinged Orrell.

As the match progressed, Sale broadened their options. Devereux wrecked the defence with his powerful breaks while Mannix and Baxendale demonstrated their more subtle touches.

Though the opening phase was even, Sale effectively wrapped up victory with a four-try blitz — from Mannix, Maffinder, Morris and Beim — in 14 minutes. After that, the only question was how many points they would amass.

SCORERS: Orrell: Tries: Mannix, Maffinder, Morris, Beim. Conversions: Mannix (2), Maffinder, Beim, O'Grady, A. Smith. Sale: J. Taborer, J. Naylor, D. Lyle, L. Taborer, M. Healey, M. McCarthy, S. Goss, M. Worsley, A. Mott, S. Turner, C. Cooper, A. Bennett, P. Rees, R. Hogg, P. Angelsen. Healey replaced by R. Hogg (60th). SALE: J. Maffinder, D. Beim, J. Baxendale, J. Devereux, T. Beim, S. Mannix, D. Morris, P. Smith, S. Devereux, A. Smith, D. Baxendale, J. Fowler, J. Maffinder, D. O'Grady, C. Wyle, Mannix replaced by A. Hogg (65), Wyle replaced by N. Ashurst (70). Referee: D. Carrivick (Widnes).

Saracens	28
Harlequins	20

BY JOHN HOPKINS

SARACENS do make life difficult for visitors to Enfield. They remain unbeaten this season in the Courage Clubs Championship in the fastness of the Great Cambridge Road and, when you analyse the contributions made in this hard-fought and deserved victory by Michael Lynagh, Phil Lynagh, Sella and Francois Pienaar, not to mention a combative Kyran Bracken and the outstanding Richard Hill and Tony Diprose, then it is not difficult to see why.

Saracens have good players in the key positions and Harlequins, perhaps slightly off the boil after successive victories over Wasps and Bath, could not match them.

Lynagh demonstrated wondrous handling skills and punted beautifully, two of his kicks laying the groundwork for tries and Sella tackled like a man possessed. In his first game at home, Pienaar was at his best for an hour, but that was sufficient for him to demonstrate what a formidable presence he can bring to Saracens' already powerful back row.

Jack Rowell, the England coach, was present to see Hill and Diprose press their claims for international places, and he must have been pleased at the way that Bracken refused to yield to the impressive Harlequins back row.

A surprisingly quiet first half, in which Lynagh dropped a goal and kicked two penalty goals and Thierry Lacroix kicked two penalty goals, was followed by a vigorous and rousing second period. First Sella scored for Saracens, then Lacroix made a break and threw out a long pass that enabled Daren O'Leary to score in the corner. Both were converted.

Harlequins had the edge in the scrums, where the wily Laurent Bénézech was too strong for Adrian Oliver, and the pushover try that Huw Harries scored midway

through the half was no more than they deserved. At this stage it seemed that Harlequins would hold on and win.

That, though, is to denigrate Saracens, who responded immediately. After one of those pinpoint kicks by Lynagh, Diprose powered over in the corner. Thus did Saracens regain the lead, and they made sure of victory when they forced Tony Copsey over for their third try with seven minutes remaining.

Saracens now need to start winning away games. Then they can challenge for a place in Europe, and be more of a presence in the first division, too. They have moved up to sixth, five points behind Leicester with two games in hand. At present, Saracens are just one of the teams that have ended the Bath and Leicester duopoly, and the game is all the better for that.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Sella, Diprose, Copsey, Conversions: Lynagh (2). Penalty goals: Lynagh (2). Dropper goal: Lynagh. Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary, Harries. Conversions: Lacroix (2). Penalty goals: Lacroix (2).

SARACENS: M. Pienaar, R. Hill, A. Bennett, C. Cooper, K. Bracken, M. Lynagh, S. Sella, D. Morris, D. O'Grady, C. Wyle, Mannix replaced by A. Hogg (65), Wyle replaced by N. Ashurst (70). Referee: A. Spradbury (Somerset).

Referee: A. Spradbury (Somerset).

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He said dancing was a sport and required extreme fitness and suppleness. "I feel it is an artistic sport. We need to be fit to do what we do, but it is not just about fitness. You have to be artistic in the presentation, timing and musicality. We warm up and warm down a lot, but we are also careful not to build up muscles in the wrong places, or extra pounds of flesh."

هكذا من الأصل

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Cross country

SEVILLE: World Cross Challenge event. Men (500m): 1. P. Quinn (P) 20m 27sec; 2. J. Brown (GB) 29.55; 3. P. Torgal (Nor) 30.04; 4. G. O'Brien (Ire) 30.20; 5. J. Vazquez (Spain) 30.21; 6. K. Cullen (GB) 30.21; 7. J. Brown (GB) 30.21; 8. J. Vazquez (Spain) 30.21; 9. J. Brown (GB) 30.21; 10. J. Vazquez (Spain) 30.21.

CONVENTRY: Birmingham and District

League: First division, 1. S. White (Con) 2. J. Brown (B) 3. J. Brown (B) 4. J. Brown (B) 5. J. Brown (B) 6. J. Brown (B) 7. J. Brown (B) 8. J. Brown (B) 9. J. Brown (B) 10. J. Brown (B).

Track and field

GLASGOW: Scottish championships. Women: 100m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 12.10; 200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 24.50; 400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 58.50; 800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 1:55.00; 1,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 4:15.00; 3,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 8:30.00; 6,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 16:45.00; 12,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 33:00.00; 25,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 66:00.00; 51,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 132:00.00; 102,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 264:00.00; 204,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 528:00.00; 409,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 1,056:00.00; 819,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 2,112:00.00; 1,638,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 4,224:00.00; 3,276,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 8,448:00.00; 6,553,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 16,896:00.00; 13,107,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 33,792:00.00; 26,214,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 67,584:00.00; 52,428,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 135,168:00.00; 104,857,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 270,336:00.00; 209,715,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 540,672:00.00; 419,430,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 1,081,344:00.00; 838,860,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 2,162,688:00.00; 1,677,721,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 4,325,376:00.00; 3,355,443,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 8,650,752:00.00; 6,710,886,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 17,301,504:00.00; 13,421,772,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 34,603,008:00.00; 26,843,545,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 69,206,016:00.00; 53,687,091,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 138,412,032:00.00; 107,374,182,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 276,824,064:00.00; 214,748,364,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 553,648,128:00.00; 429,496,729,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 1,107,296,256:00.00; 858,993,459,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 2,214,592,512:00.00; 1,717,986,918,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 4,429,185,024:00.00; 3,435,973,836,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 8,858,370,048:00.00; 6,871,947,673,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 17,716,740,096:00.00; 13,743,895,347,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 35,433,480,192:00.00; 27,487,790,694,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 70,866,960,384:00.00; 54,975,581,388,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 141,733,920,768:00.00; 109,951,162,777,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 283,467,841,536:00.00; 219,902,325,555,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 566,935,683,072:00.00; 439,804,651,110,400m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 1,133,871,366,144:00.00; 879,609,302,220,800m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 2,267,742,732,288:00.00; 1,759,218,604,441,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 4,535,485,464,576:00.00; 3,518,437,207,363,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 8,888,968,929,152:00.00; 7,036,864,015,801,600m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 17,777,937,858,304:00.00; 5,626,243,212,641,200m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 14,191,894,716,608:00.00; 4,501,718,400,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 11,254,739,436,160:00.00; 3,601,312,800,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 9,103,938,608,256:00.00; 2,880,960,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 7,274,984,157,696:00.00; 2,304,768,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 5,811,968,394,304:00.00; 1,728,576,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 4,369,568,311,424:00.00; 1,344,448,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 3,415,654,644,544:00.00; 1,036,832,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 2,652,521,711,616:00.00; 789,248,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 2,000,000,000,000:00.00; 631,424,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 1,600,000,000,000:00.00; 488,960,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 1,220,000,000,000:00.00; 377,728,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 955,000,000,000:00.00; 294,272,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 742,500,000,000:00.00; 227,424,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 577,500,000,000:00.00; 181,936,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 460,000,000,000:00.00; 145,548,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 367,500,000,000:00.00; 119,238,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 300,000,000,000:00.00; 95,390,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 240,000,000,000:00.00; 76,312,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 192,000,000,000:00.00; 61,049,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 155,000,000,000:00.00; 48,839,000,000,000m: 1. M. Laidlaw (Aber) 122,500,000,000:00.00; 39,071,000,000,000m: 1. M. 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After seeing a women's rugby match Christian Dymond says England v Scotland will be a cracker



Although not the top flight of women's rugby, Blaydon Barracudas (in red) against Wharfedale saw some good tackling and fine handling skills. Points from penalties were conspicuous by their absence Photographs by Michael Scott

A great way to spend a Sunday

If my experience is anything to go by, the women's rugby international between England and Scotland next weekend should be a cracker.

England women's team are the world champions and Scotland lost the fixture only 12-3 last year. The match takes place at Blackheath on Sunday and is preceded by a game between the two national women's A sides.

With England men's poor performance against Argentina still relatively fresh in my memory, I travelled to the outskirts of Newcastle upon Tyne to watch the women of Blaydon Barracudas entertain the might of Wharfedale.

This was by no means the top flight of women's rugby — Blaydon and Wharfedale are in the northern league of the third division — but both sides clearly had ambitions to take the game to each other in an entertaining and open way.

Blaydon Barracudas were also looking to improve their performance after their defeat in Yorkshire a few weeks before, and early evidence suggested enough bite to rattle the visitors. Scrummaging looked pretty solid, there was clean ball from the lineout and after five minutes Elizabeth Simpson, their nippy wing, should have gone over for a try but the final pass was way off target.

Gradually, though, Wharfedale got a grip on the game, their backs attacking with greater brio while their forwards seemed far more mobile around the pitch. By half-time they were leading 10-0. This increased to 20-0 before Blaydon replied with their solitary try. This galvanised them but only briefly, and, as they ran out of steam, so Wharfedale ran them ragged, the final result being 46-5.

It did emerge later that Blaydon had been decimated by sickness and had taken the field with two players who had never before experienced a full game.

Five of the eight Wharfedale tries were scored by one of the centres, which was indicative both of the way the match was played and of the way that women generally approach the game. Points from penalties were conspicuous by their absence.

The match certainly impressed Tom Sarginson, 17, one of about 30 spectators hugging the touchline. A rugby player who had never watched a women's game, he said: "It was extremely entertaining, much better than I thought it was going to be. A lot of the tackling was excellent and there were some good moves and great handling skills."

The 30 players on the pitch at Blaydon were some of the 12,000 to 15,000 women who now play rugby in the British Isles. In the past few years the game has grown from 12 teams in 1983 to about 270 clubs, some with two or three sides. Rules are the same as for men.

Rugby generally has a higher profile and the growth in the women's game owes a lot to that. There is also the fact that England women won the World Cup in 1994, as I was told by Rosie Golby, the president of the Rugby Football Union for Women, the governing body for the game in England.

A player for 13 years, she turns out as scrum half or centre for Old Leamingtonians in Leamington Spa. "I play because it's a team sport and a contact sport and because I enjoy it," she said. "I can't kick, so when I do, everyone around me cheers."

The side trains twice a week. Blaydon Barracudas, formerly known as Northern Ladies, also trains twice a week. Tuesday night is for scrummaging, passing and practising set-piece moves; Wednesday evening is primarily for fitness.

Their 25-women squad ranges in age from a 17-year-old who is still at school to a 32-year-old mother of two. Helen Greenwell, 28, one of three policewomen in the side. Many of the others are students. It is Greenwell's second season of rugby, although she had previously been a rower for ten years.

"I've always enjoyed watching the game, but a friend who started playing inspired me to take it up," she said. "Rugby's a good team sport and I think you can enjoy it at whatever level of fitness you are. It also makes for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon." Women's rugby is almost always played on a Sunday, otherwise there might be a clash of pitch and changing facilities with the men.

Three quarters of an hour before the kick-off against



Wharfedale, Blaydon Barracudas were out on the field going through leg and arm exercises with Andy Ellis, their physiotherapist. 20 minutes later, having been split up into backs and forwards, they rehearsed moves with Tom Gilmour and Rob Thomson, their coaches.

"Some of the squad are very fit," Ellis said. "Others have come to the game with a basic level of fitness but with a good degree of strength and determination which we hope to build on. Fitness sometimes takes second place to the learning of the game because rugby is new to them."

THE women who play rugby at Blaydon pay a £20 subscription for the season and a £150 match fee. The social side is strong with evenings out and dances at the extremely impressive new £1.1 million clubhouse.

In wider terms, women's rugby is organised in national leagues: first and second divisions (Saracens, Richmond, Wasps and Leeds being four of the strongest sides), a third division with four regional leagues (North, Midlands, South East and South West,

HOW TO JOIN IN

and fourth and fifth divisions with eight regional leagues apiece.

There is a sixth division which has leagues for new clubs and there are also knock-out cup competitions. A national development officer, Nicola Ponsford, was appointed last September, this is apparently women's rugby's first salaried post.

Last season saw the first home nations' championship involving teams from

England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. In March, after the 1997 championship, England will participate in the first women's seven-a-side tournament in Hong Kong.

For more information on women's rugby contact: 01635 278177.

For more information on Blaydon Barracudas contact: 0191-371 9901.

Blackheath on January 26: Scotland A v England A: kick-off, noon; England v Scotland: kick-off 2pm. Tickets: £5.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When the defence are attempting a trump promotion, it is sometimes necessary for them to cash their side winners first. This example arose in the match between Turkey and Belgium, in the Women's Olympiad in October.

Dealer South	Game all	IMPs
♠ A 9 3 ♥ A Q J 9 7 2 ♦ Q 9 ♣ 10 9	♠ K 8 3 ♥ K 10 5 4 3 ♦ K 6 3 2 ♣ N W E S ♠ K Q J 7 6 4 2 ♥ A J 7 ♦ Q 5	+105 +1065 +862 -A J 8 7 4

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ten of clubs

At both tables South attempted Four Spades against the lead of the ten of clubs. Each East played low, and declarer won the queen, but there the play diverged. The Belgian played a heart: West took her ace, and continued clubs, and now a third round of clubs promoted a second trump trick for West. Note incidentally that if South ruffs the third club with an honour, West must discard. If she over-ruffs, she no longer makes a second trump.

The Turkish declarer played the king of spades at trick two; the Belgian West took the ace and played a second club. In practice East overtook and continued with a low club; on which declarer discarded a losing heart; she made the contract when she guessed who had the queen of diamonds.

If East plays the ace of clubs on the third round of clubs, South can ruff high. Then she draws one more trump, and again makes the contract if she finds the queen of diamonds — her losing heart goes away on the king of clubs.

The correct defence is for West to cash the ace of hearts when she wins the ace of spades. Then she continues with a second club, and now the trump promotion works.

□ The Macallan international pairs championship 1997, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, London later this week. Session times and prices: Wednesday, January 22, 5.30-11pm, £12.50; Thursday, January 23, noon-4pm £12.50; 5.30-11pm £12.50; all day, £30; Friday, January 24, 12.30-6.30pm £17.50; season ticket for all sessions £35. Tickets are available from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Information: 0181-878 5844.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams ahead

Grandmaster Michael Adams, the Great Britain No 2, is engaged in a match against the top Chilean grandmaster Ivan Morovic in Santiago, Chile. After his relative setback at Hastings, Adams will be anxious to rehabilitate himself. Indeed, he got off to a good start by winning the first game.

In a fashionable variation of the Sicilian Defence, Adams entered a complex middle-game and sacrificed a pawn in order to lay waste Black's camp through the firepower of the two white bishops. In the final position Black is material down with his king hopelessly vulnerable to the combined attack of the white queen and bishop.

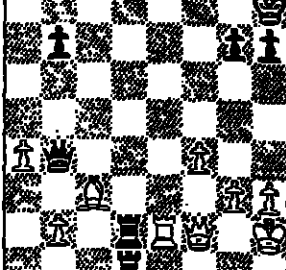
White: Michael Adams
Black: Ivan Morovic
Santiago, January 1997

Sicilian Defence	
1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	c6
3 d4	cd4
4 Nc3	Nf6
5 Ne3	a6
6 f4	e5
7 Nf3	Nbd7
8 a4	Bd7
9 Bc3	O-O
10 O-O	ed4
11 Kh1	Nd5
12 Bx4	Bd7
13 Qd2	Rd8
14 Rf1	Ra8
15 a5	h6
16 Bf1	Bf8
17 e5	de5
18 Nxe5	Se6
19 Qf2	Ncd7
20 Qf3	Ne5
21 Se5	Nd5
22 Bc3	Rc5
23 Ng4	Ra5
24 Rad1	Qh4
25 Nd6	Bxd6
26 Bxd6	Qf6

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Schneider — Oll, Podolsk 1993. Black appears to have a few difficulties as his queen and rook are attacked and his back rank is weak. What is his strongest continuation?



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- HARUSPEX**
a. A longnet
b. The flycatcher
c. A fortune teller
- KINCOB**
a. Rich embroidery
b. Corn on the cob
c. Former pupil of King's
- HARATCH**
a. Reed thatch
b. Turkish poll tax
c. The Lydian aspirate
- HOGO**
a. A pig call
b. A card game
c. A foul stink

Answers on page 44



Clean ball: both sides clearly had ambitions to take the game to each other in an entertaining and an open way

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THE TIMES

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● New Scientist	£1.80	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CHANGING TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Bank of Ireland	100.00	+0.20	3.5%	10.0
Bank of London	90.00	+0.10	3.2%	9.0
Bank of Montreal	80.00	+0.15	3.0%	8.0
Bank of New York	70.00	+0.10	2.8%	7.0
Bank of Paris	60.00	+0.05	2.5%	6.0
Bank of Spain	50.00	+0.05	2.2%	5.0
Bank of Sweden	40.00	+0.05	2.0%	4.0
Bank of Tokyo	30.00	+0.05	1.8%	3.0
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Heineken Ltd	110.00	+0.30	3.2%	11.0
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Miller Ltd	80.00	+0.10	2.8%	8.0
Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	+0.20	3.8%	7.0
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Company	Price	Yld	P/E	Div	Cap	Price	Yld	P/E	Div	Cap	Price	Yld	P/E	Div	Cap
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES															
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Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50	0.50	Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50	Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50
Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20	0.20	Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20	Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20
Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10	0.10	Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10	Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10
Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30	0.30	Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30	Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30
Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40	0.40	Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40	Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40
Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10	0.10	Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10	Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10
Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20	0.20	Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20	Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20
Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15	0.15	Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15	Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15
Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05	0.05	Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05	Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05
FOOD MANUFACTURERS															
Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00	1.00	Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00	Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00
Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50	0.50	Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50	Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50
Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20	0.20	Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20	Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20
Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10	0.10	Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10	Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10
Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30	0.30	Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30	Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30
Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40	0.40	Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40	Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40
Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10	0.10	Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10	Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10
Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20	0.20	Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20	Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20
Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15	0.15	Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15	Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15
Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05	0.05	Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05	Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05
LEISURE & HOTELS															
Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00	1.00	Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00	Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00
Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50	0.50	Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50	Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50
Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20	0.20	Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20	Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20
Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10	0.10	Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10	Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10
Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30	0.30	Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30	Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30
Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40	0.40	Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40	Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40
Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10	0.10	Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10	Miller Ltd	80.00	2.8%	8.0	0.10
Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20	0.20	Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20	Paul Smith Ltd	70.00	3.8%	7.0	0.20
Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15	0.15	Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15	Reckitt Ltd	60.00	3.1%	6.0	0.15
Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05	0.05	Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05	Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05
HEALTHCARE															
Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00	1.00	Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00	Adnams Ltd	180.00	4.5%	18.0	1.00
Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50	0.50	Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50	Beck's Ltd	120.00	3.5%	12.0	0.50
Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20	0.20	Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20	Carlsberg Ltd	150.00	3.0%	15.0	0.20
Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10	0.10	Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10	Guinness Ltd	100.00	2.5%	10.0	0.10
Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30	0.30	Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30	Heineken Ltd	110.00	3.2%	11.0	0.30
Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40	0.40	Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40	Johnnie Walker Ltd	90.00	4.0%	9.0	0.40
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Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05	0.05	Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05	Stout & Smith Ltd	50.00	2.9%	5.0	0.05

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Abtrust Scotland Investment, Budgets, Heritage Bathrooms, Majestic Wines, Mite Group. Final: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK vehicle output (December), UK construction trade survey, Bank of France money market lender, Bank of France discount T-bill auction, EU agriculture ministers council (until tomorrow).

TOMORROW

Interims: Barbour Index, China Investment Trust, Consolidated Murchison, Daejan Holdings, Fletcher King, Randox International, UK Gold Mining, Somerfield. Final: Shandwick International. Economic statistics: UK construction orders (November), UK provisional M4 (December), UK British Bankers' Association end-December monthly statement, UK building societies monthly figures (December), UK CBI quarterly industrial trade survey, Bank of England to announce oil auction details for January 28-30, BTM/Schroder weekly US chain store sales report, Johnson Redwood weekly US chain store sales report, US Fed Chairman's speech on economy to Senate budget committee, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills and two-year treasury notes, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills and inflation-indexed ten-year notes.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Mentmore Abbey, Final: Shant Group, Watson & Partners. Economic statistics: UK retail sales (December), French industrial production (November), Bundesbank weekly report, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills and two-year treasury notes, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills and inflation-indexed ten-year notes.

THURSDAY

Interims: Portland Group, William Ransom, Final: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK British Chambers of Commerce economic survey (Q4), Japan trade surplus (December), French household consumption (December), Bundesbank central council policy meeting, Bank of France money market lender.

FRIDAY

Interims: Mashead Insurance, WF Electrical, Final: Albion. Economic statistics: none scheduled. Trading statement: J Sainsbury.

SUNDAY TIPS

Independent On Sunday: Buy Oxford Medical, Cirqual, Silvermines, Pressac: Hold Rentokil Initial: Sell Stanford Rock, Lomrho. Observer: Buy Tesco, Sainsbury, Sunday Telegraph: Buy Guinness, Stanford Rock, Jarvis, Goldsmiths, First Leisure: Sell Tottenham Hotspur. Sunday Times: Buy Medeva, Sell Dixons, Kewill Systems. Mail On Sunday: Buy Cruden Bay, Reed Intl, Goodwin.

COMPANIES



Tesco stays ahead in store wars



David Sainsbury, chairman of the food retailer, heading for a second profits setback

BRITAIN'S supermarket chains will be in the spotlight this week, with Christmas trading statements from Tesco and J Sainsbury, and financial results from Budgets and Somerfield, which will give investors an insight into the impact of the price war that is raging in the shopping aisles and supermarket petrol stations.

TESCO: The market leader is likely to have consolidated its position when it announces its trading update later today. It appears that the group has enjoyed the best trading conditions of the four major players in the run-up to Christmas. Nick Bubb, retail analyst at MeesPeirson, is looking for a 7 per cent increase in like-for-like sales, excluding petrol sales.

Tesco is the biggest of the petrol retailers and will have benefited the most from any easing of the price war.

Margins will be no worse than stable, although the investment committed to the group's loyalty card makes the job of forecasting margins more difficult. For the full year brokers are looking for Tesco to raise pre-tax profits from £681 million to £745 million.

J SAINSBURY: A different picture is likely to be painted by Britain's second-biggest food retailer on Friday. Like-for-like sales are expected to have grown 4 per cent, with the group investing heavily in its own loyalty cards, which will again muddy the water as far as margins are concerned. No doubt Sainsbury will have made every effort to recover lost ground on Tesco,

although it is doubtful whether the retailer has been able to close the gap.

In the event, the group is expected to suffer its second consecutive profits setback in the current year, with brokers pencilling in profits of around

£700 million, against £764 million last time.

SOMERFIELD: Tomorrow's half-year figures from Somerfield will be the first since the company launched itself on the stock market back in

as will be underlined by the results.

In spite of this, the group is likely to record a drop in the like-for-like sales growth of 3.3 per cent recorded at the time of the flotation. This is not a reflection on its trading performance, rather a series of outside factors such as lower inflation and the disruption to trading caused by its conversion of 67 stores to the Somerfield brand.

Improved efficiency and increased cost savings suggest an improvement in operating margins, from 2.82 per cent last time to 3.37 per cent. For the full year, NatWest is forecasting pre-tax profits of £103 million and a total dividend of 10.2p net.

BUDGETS: The group is continuing to experience intense competition from its bigger rivals, and its half-year figures later today are likely to reveal further pressure on margins.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at around £5 million, compared with £4.3 million for the corresponding period, with earnings per share 10 pence ahead at 2.3p. Shareholders can look forward to an 11 per cent rise, to 0.39p, in the half-year payout.

At its last annual meeting the group reported a rise of 4.5 per cent in like-for-like sales in the first 18 weeks after the April year end. Its performance will have been enhanced by its new Fresh & Easy stores format and the acquisition of an 11,000-sq ft store in London. However, the increased investment is likely to take its toll on margins.

Share boom for resources in Australia

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

RESOURCE stocks in Australia are booming amid predictions that the sector's performance will far outpace the rest of the country's stock market in 1997.

New-found enthusiasm for resource shares sent the Australian all-ordinary index soaring through 2,400 for the first time, to end 1996 at a high of 2,424.60. The index has since edged up further, ending last week at 2,435.5.

Australian analysts say that investors are scrambling to jump aboard the resource train for three main reasons: the prospect of a big step-up in exploration activity in 1997; the likelihood of a sharp rise in mineral prices; and the chance of a much stronger world economy this year.

The fact that Australia's industrial sector is widely believed to be going nowhere over the next few months has only added to the appeal. A survey of the country's ten leading broking firms reveals that the resources sector is expected to gain 8 per cent over the year, compared with a 4 per cent gain for industrial stocks.

Ray Chantry, director of minerals at First Pacific, the broker, said: "I can't remember a time when there's been a more exciting period than the one we're going into. There's a huge force behind exploration right now, with the three or four major companies spending large sums of money."

Another analyst says expansions and new projects will be the key to 1997: "The big opportunities we see in

that area are in the diversified resources stocks such as BHP, North, RTZ-CRA and to some extent MIM. It is the new projects that each has got that generate sustained earnings."

Australia's gold sector has enjoyed a frenzy of its own after a surprise discovery in the largely unexplored Gawler Craton region in South Australia by Helix, a junior exploration company. News of strong drilling results drove Helix shares from 45 cents to A\$4.15 in a few days and has led to a mad rush among investors for shares in other exploration companies with land in the region. Robin Widdup, head of mining research at JB Were and Son, the broker, said: "These discoveries in the Gawler Craton are equivalent to finding a whole new country inside of Australia. This is the hottest place around, including internationally."

The prospect of rising mineral prices is also whetting appetites for resource stocks. JB Were, for example, forecast a 50 per cent jump in the price of nickel to US\$4.45 and a 30 per cent rise in the zinc price to 61 cents in the coming year.

More cynical voices say the market's sudden enthusiasm for resource stocks has less to do with fundamentals and more to do with the fact that it is the start of a brand new year. Says one analyst: "People tend to be more optimistic at the start of a new year. January's always good for resources stocks, I can't remember a bad one."

Pointers to the Chancellor's actions over interest rates

There are a number of key economic figures that will help the financial markets to form a view on whether the Chancellor was right to leave interest rates unchanged last week and whether he will now get away with stable rates right up until the election, as many City economists have concluded.

The first important clutch of releases comes tomorrow, with December figures for M4 money supply as well as the latest lending figures from banks and building

societies. M4 is expected to have risen 0.7 per cent in the month, according to a consensus of market expectations compiled by MMS International.

That would leave annual growth in M4 unchanged at 10.8 per cent. The M4 lending component of the money supply is forecast to show a slight deceleration from November's figure. Overall, these statistics are predicted to show that growth in credit and broad money remains robust.

Also released on Tuesday is the latest

industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which will be of particular interest after the shock fall in manufacturing activity reported recently.

This is followed on Wednesday by December figures for retail sales, which will give the official version of the key Christmas shopping season. The consensus

of market forecasts is for a modest rise of 0.3 per cent in retail sales volumes, compared with November's increase of 0.7 per cent.

The caution of these forecasts comes after rather disappointing evidence on December sales from the CBI and the British Retail Consortium.

Outside Britain, the focus will fall on Germany, where the Bundesbank is launching its Thursday annual monetary report, renewed speculation about a possible drop in German interest rates in the next few

months. The week will see publication of the latest M3 money supply figures, which should show a deceleration in growth. An IFO survey of economic activity is also expected.

There will also be some interest in tomorrow's testimony on the economy by the Senate Budget Committee by Greenspan, the Federal Reserve

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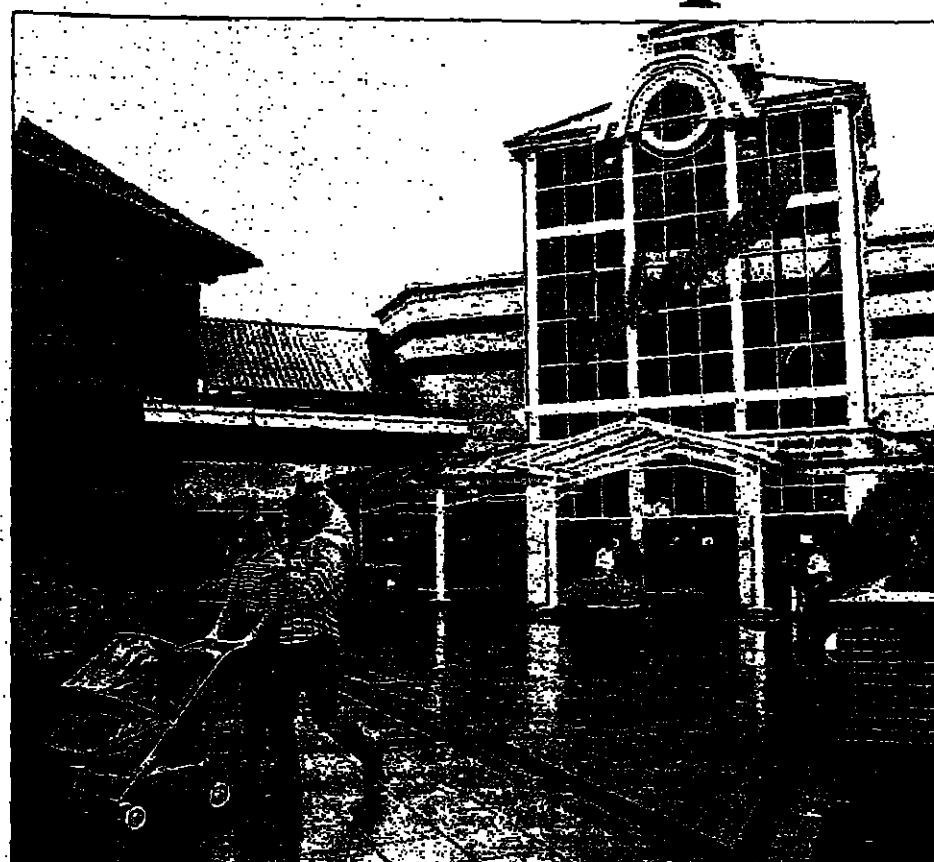
Bazaar way to do business fulfils Eastern promise

The rise of the new retail emperors is charted by Carl Mortished

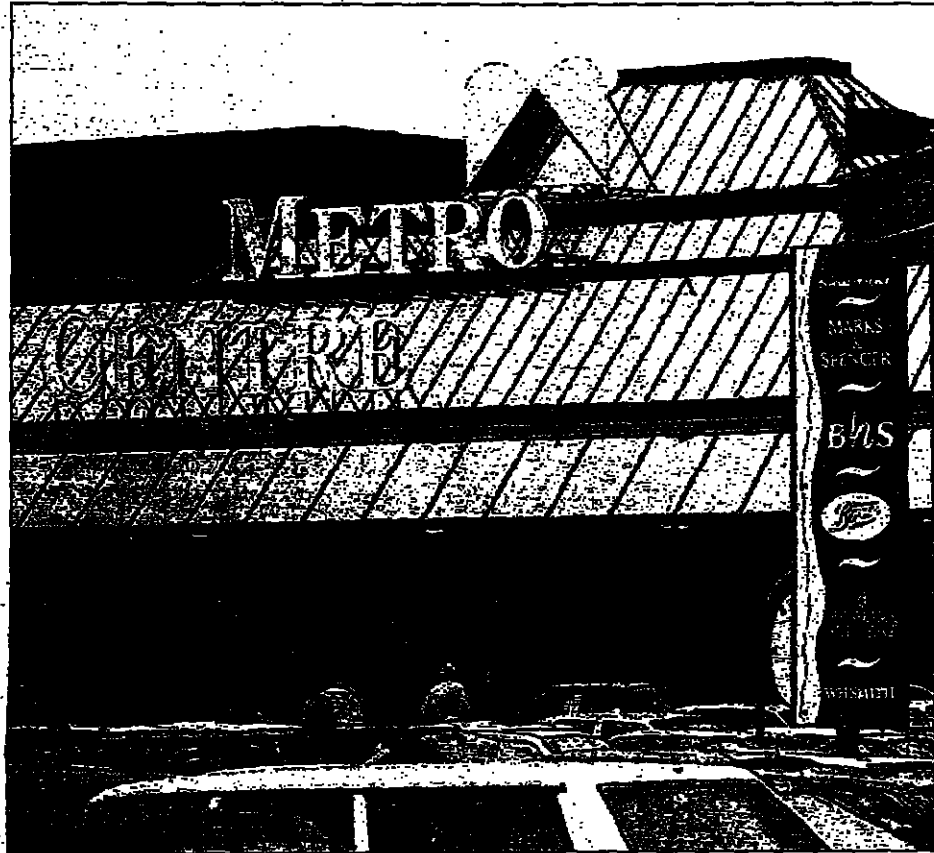
On the edge of the Taklimakan desert in the Chinese province of Xinjiang there is a town called Kashgar. A dusty, unattractive place, cursed with some vile Chinese concrete bunker buildings, Kashgar was once important. For thousands of years it was an oasis and trading post: caravans from the West brought gold, wool, precious stones and glass. These were exchanged for goods arriving from the East: furs, lacquer, ceramics, weapons and, of course, silk.

Like every great bazaar or shopping centre, the success of Kashgar was its location, linking Samarkand and routes to Europe with China to the east and India to the south. In the jargon of today's retailers, Kashgar had a high footfall and was on a caravan route, or in today's language, a motorway. In Britain, there is disagreement about whether we are in a retail boom. Shopkeepers report mixed results. But if there is still gloom among the traders of cloth and leather, the owners of the bazaars have become the new retailing emperors. Shopping centres, the concrete and glass blocks that house the silk and leather merchants are fetching enormous prices and their owners are becoming very rich. The shares of shopping centre owners have soared — in the space of a year, Capital Shopping Centres, which owns Lakeside in Essex and the Metro Centre in Gateshead, has risen from 216p to 380p. Chelmsfield, which owns the Merry Hill centre in Dudley, is up more than 80 per cent.

Owners of retail bazaars are now worth much more than the net value of the underlying buildings. Every sale of a shopping centre brings a new benchmark in valuation. This month, Marks & Spencer put a tinder-box under the market, buying the Gyle centre in Edinburgh for £122 million. M&S had a trump card, a pre-emption right on the centre and whisked the property from under the noses of Universities Superannuation Fund. The bids reflected rents of £55 per sq ft for Zone A, the first 30 feet of a retail unit. But, according to Peter Smolka, investment partner at Hillier Parker, which sold the centre for Edinburgh City Council, the bidders were factoring in substantial rental growth. "My own opinion is that they must have been working on the basis of a £130 Zone A."



The Lakeside centre in Essex has helped to boost the share price of its owners



Success at the Metro Centre reflects the popularity of the new shopping outlets

Why should rents rise so much when retailers are still fighting for every customer? To answer the question, it is worth thinking again about bazaars. In the 1970s and

1980s, middle-class England fled from cities to suburbs and retailers followed them. Shoppers liked the huge malls on motorways and retailers liked the captive audiences. So busy were the shops that property developers confidently hooked retailers on turnover rents, linking the cost of the floorspace to the money flow-

ing into the tills. While the bazaars on the motorways flourished, the town centres died for want of custom. With such a profusion of goods available in one place, shoppers saw no reason to traipse down the high street. Decay set in and the townsfolk demanded an end to the construction of more bazaars. The

Government responded and a new planning guideline, PPG6, virtually rules out more shopping centres on Britain's caravan routes.

For those already being built, such as Trafford Park near Manchester, or the 1.6 million sq ft Bluewater Park in Kent, the prohibition is good news. Less competition means a shortage of centres for retailers seeking space and investors seeking a home for their money. Even while shopkeepers struggle, rents in good centres rise. As in all bazaars, successful traders attract imitators and the competition for good locations is intense. The Gyle centre has 100 retailers knocking at its door.

Institutions are again interested in property after several years of suspicion bred of the last property crash. Funds, flush with cash, can contemplate spending more than £100 million on a single asset, shrugging off any thought of risk with the knowledge that the income from a single shopping centre really comprises more than 100 incomes from separate traders.

For the merchants sipping tea in their offices in the souk, property is becoming an issue. Soaring rents pose a threat to profit margins and could even raise concerns about cashflow should trading turn down as it did in the last recession. The richest of them have responded by buying up their premises where they can. Hence the purchase of the Gyle, where M&S has bought the 300,000 sq ft centre to secure its position. Other retailers are buying property, including Carpenters and Burton Group, which last year purchased a flagship store at Oxford Circus in London.

In Southampton, the bidding is in progress for a huge centre shopping centre project owned by Imry, the company that was shuffled into the Barclays Bank vaults in the last property crash. Barclays is now selling the company and at least three companies, CSC, Chelmsfield and British Land are eyeing up the Southampton asset.

Could shopping centres last as long as the market in Kashgar or the covered bazaar in Istanbul? Many were built in the 1980s and over the next few years will begin to look tired. Lacking the pedigree of 2,000 years of trading, Britain's bazaars need glitz and redits to keep the loyalty of shoppers and those retailers who choose to buy their roof may find the investment goes far beyond the initial hefty outlay. However, there is no shortage of adventurers — the silk route traders risked more than their money bringing cloth to the market. If the location is right, some trader will always set up his stall.

Frank le Duc on the regional press

The press barons who are proud to be provincial

Who could possibly want to buy a dying business — one that some people doubt will survive for much longer than a decade? A business such as local newspapers.

The sector is breathing its last, according to some sceptics, and is about to be supplanted by new media gods, such as the Internet, electronic publishing and the proliferation of local radio and TV stations.

If actions speak louder than words, sceptics can point to the traditional regional press barons. Some plundered the collection plate and left titles in the graveyard.

Hours after Westminster Press was sold, Frank Barlow, then managing director of Pearson, the vendor, called WP "a domestic business in long-term decline".

This was no distress sale. WP made a £25 million operating profit from sales of £143 million in the previous year, and, according to Mr Barlow, had "probably the highest trading margins in the industry".

Was he right to sell? If the judgment of the media sector's high priests is any guide, it would seem so. The media is away from old-fashioned local papers and towards specialist magazines, TV, radio and new media. The Internet is fashionable, if not yet a profitable method of publishing.

Pearson sold WP within months of Enap's exit from the sector, not on the heels of disposals by Reed and The Thomson Corporation. The long-term commitment of United News & Media, another leading regional publisher, is doubted by some observers. Of the top five regional publishers two years ago, only Northcliffe, part of Daily Mail and General Trust, seems truly committed to remaining a significant force in the sector.

Alec Davidson, Northcliffe's managing director, said: "We happen to believe there is a long-term business called national and regional newspapers — thank God!"

"It may be a domestic business in a mature phase, but what we are seeking to do is to use that as a strength, both for its own long-term position and to develop new businesses out of it."

The new giants, such as Newsquest, Trinity and Johnston Press, are dedicated provincial publishers. Anthony de Larrinaga,

media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said the sector reached a watershed when Northcliffe bought the Nottingham Evening Post for £93 million two years ago. The Department of Trade and Industry overruled the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's objections.

A wave of buying and selling followed. The sector has seen its biggest change since the advent of free newspapers in the early Eighties. Mr de Larrinaga said publishers had suffered from duplicated costs in an industry that was too fragmented. The Nottingham deal sig-

Midland Independent Newspapers, is typical of the new breed of regional publishers. His core business consists of The Birmingham Post and Evening Mail, and the Coventry Evening Telegraph.

In the past few years it has launched Birmingham Live, a joint venture cable TV channel; it has started supplying news to radio stations taken on an exhibitions business, supporting and supported by specialist magazines; and it publishes on the Internet.

He said: "We are an information business. It would be very hard for someone to come in here and gather as much information as we can, both in editorial and advertising terms. They might as well come to us. We're interested in content, not in owning the tubes down which the information is squeezed."

Midland has attracted the attentions of Hollinger, owner of the Daily Telegraph. A deal could form the tail end of the "mad scramble" that Mr de Larrinaga believes has been prompted in part by the imminent general election.

The first stage is complete, he said. "The second stage will see infill acquisitions and title swaps." The buying and selling continues — if not on the same scale as the WP deal. Venture capitalists, who look for good growth and strong cashflow, have kept faith with the sector.

After TV, the regional press still attracts more advertising spending than any other medium — including national newspapers.

The long-term decline that Mr Barlow described casts quite a shadow. Poor circulation is the most worrying symptom, indicative of the newspaper equivalent of scurvy — undernourished titles starved of investment. Although it accounts for a shrinking proportion of total revenues, it is telling: it lets advertisers know how many readers are prepared to buy a paper.

One of the first statements by Jim Brown, Newsquest's chief executive, after buying WP's titles was that they would be shown some tender loving care. He told the MMC that his acquisition needed investment and would receive it.

Perhaps the bankers and backers have more faith in the new generation of owner-managers and are looking to them to resurrect the sector and lead a renaissance.



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Pensioners bonds lead Savings rush

By ANNE ASHWORTH, PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

RETAILERS may have had a quieter Christmas than they expected, but the month of December saw unusually high demand for National Savings accounts and bonds. Best sellers were pensioners' bonds, in which £123 million was invested during the month, and Premium Bonds, which attracted £98 million. Total sales of all National Savings products were £779 million. After repayments of £710 million and accrued interest of £124 million, the net contribution to Government funding was £193 million.

National Savings said that it was on target to raise £4.5 billion, the amount it is required to contribute to Government funding in the 1996/97 financial year. This sum was increased from £3 billion in the last Budget.

Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from start of business on 20th January 1997 the interest rate set out below becomes applicable to all Practice Call Accounts whatever the balance.

Practice Call Account

Rate per Annum

GROSS% GROSS C.A.R.%
4.5% 4.58%

TSB We want you to say YES

Interest rates are variable. Interest paid quarterly. Minimum balance £2,000. The above interest rate applies to all tiers.

TSB Bank plc Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1EZ.

TSB Bank Scotland plc Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JL.

NEW WEST LONDON GROUP

Annual Report for the 12 months ended 31 December 1996

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT	*Six months ended 31 Dec 1996	*Six months ended 31 Dec 1995	*Year ended 31 Dec 1996
Revenue	11,384	8,899	18,973
Income from investments	1,478	-	6,531
Interest received	302	89	270
Sundry revenue	4	-	19
	13,168	8,988	25,793
Expenditure	2,086	1,918	4,029
Administration and general	1,511	979	2,137
Exploration	775	830	2,250
Interest paid	-	91	19
Profit before tax	11,082	7,051	21,165
Tax	-	-	21,165
Profit after tax	11,082	7,051	21,165
Earnings per share - cents	36	23	69
Dividends - per share - cents	17	17	52
Dividend cover - times covered	2.1	1.4	1.3

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	*At 31 Dec 1996	*At 31 Dec 1995	*At 30 June 1996
Investments	168,113	167,598	167,729
Properties and ventures	135	135	135
Net current assets/liabilities	2,518	16,217	12,072
Current assets	8,874	3,442	8,818
Cash	3,862	-	3,810
Other	1,512	3,442	2,782
Less current liabilities	5,856	9,600	11,790
Bank loan	5,856	6,309	11,790
Other	5,856	6,309	11,790
Share capital	88,425	88,425	88,425
Reserves	82,311	73,037	70,467
	170,736	161,462	158,892
Investments			
Lived - Market value	575,511	391,898	602,954
Excess over book value	108,678	225,610	437,501
Book value	166,837	166,288	165,453
Unlisted - Book value	1,270	1,270	1,270
Shares in issue unchanged at 30,635,211			
Net assets (as valued) per share - cents	1,991	1,087	2,160

*Unaudited

NOTES:

1. Final Dividend. Dividend No. 91 of 35 cents per ordinary share, in respect of the year ended 30 June 1996, absorbing R10 722 000, was declared on 30 July 1996 and paid on 11 September 1996.

2. Prospects. Good growth in earnings was achieved in the period under review largely as a result of improved dividends from the Group's gold mining investments and a surplus on the realisation of investments. If the gold price, however, remains at its present depressed level, earnings in the second half of the current financial year are expected to be lower.

DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 92 of 17 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 7 February 1997.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 26 February 1997 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 25 February 1997.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 8 February to 14 February 1997, inclusive.

75 Fox Street, Johannesburg 2001

On behalf of the board:
J.G. Hepwood (Chairman)
J.W.D. Dowling } Directors

17 January 1997

Last-ditch defence at Wm Cook

William Cook, the castings company, yesterday raised its profits forecast in a last-ditch effort to stave off a £60 million takeover bid from Triplex Lloyd.

The company predicted that profits for the year to the end of March would be at least £11 million, a rise of 30 per cent. The company also forecast a 44 per cent rise in the total dividend to 13p. Cook said that the forecast had improved because of a big jump in production and orders in November and December.

Andrew Cook, chairman, added that the company should continue to advance and repeated his call for Triplex to issue a trading forecast of its own.

But Graham Lockyer, chief executive of Triplex, criticised the defence document for focusing on an "immaterial" rise in forecast profits, adding that the dividend remained below the level paid in 1991.

Triplex has until this Saturday to raise its offer, currently worth about 308p a share. Analysts predict that Triplex will raise its offer to between 340p and 400p a share.

William Cook shares closed up 4p at 370p on Friday, valuing the company at £69 million, while Triplex shares closed at 204p. The final closing date for acceptance of the offer is February 8.

The largest falls were in Greater London and the South East, with declines of 135,000 and 190,000 respectively.

Company profits back to strength

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PROFITS earned by UK companies have returned to their highest level since the beginning of the recession in 1991, according to a report published today by CEN Group.

Corporate profitability rose from 11.5 per cent to 12.1 per cent in the third quarter of 1996 as better consumer confidence began to take hold.

David Coates, director of CEN Group, said the improvement looked likely to be sustained in 1997 as manufacturing continued to respond to improved consumer confidence.

But he said that weak investment and a lack of liquidity in some sectors, including the chemicals and transport industries, could cause some companies problems if interest rates rise sharply.

Average pre-tax profit margins rose to 7.8 per cent, their highest since 1991.

Best third-quarter corporate performance was in leisure and hotels, where average return on capital employed increased by over a quarter to 11.7 per cent.

Oil, up from 5.9 per cent to 7.7 per cent, and food manufacturing, where returns on capital increased from 12 per cent to 14.5 per cent, were also good performers.

Building and construction profitability remained weak, falling from 1.92 per cent to 1.58 per cent. Other weak performing sectors included print, power and packaging (profitability down from 14.6 per cent to 12.9 per cent) and breweries (return on capital 10.9 per cent against 12 per cent).

The tender process has been initiated pursuant to binding undertakings dated 11 August 1995 given to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to Section 75G of the Fair Trading Act 1973, modified on 24 December 1996, in connection with the sale of the Courage beer business to Scottish & Newcastle plc.

Written expressions of interest from potential tenderers are to be sent to Mr Robin Hammond at TIBSCO to arrive no later than 5 pm on 23 January 1997. Interested parties will then be required to enter into a confidentiality undertaking and will then be given the documents on the basis of which tenders are to be submitted.

The timetable for the tender process is as follows:

Expressions of interest 23 January 1997
Confidentiality undertaking received and thereafter tender documents provided 28 January 1997
Tenders submitted 14 February 1997
Notification of successful tenderer By 17 February 1997
Execution of Supply Agreement Immediately thereafter
Commencement of Supply 1 March 1997

Tenders will be required to be made for 100% of the tied products for each licensed premises.

BP signs \$1bn gas deal with Germans

By MARTIN BARROW

BP WILL today announce that it has signed a \$1 billion agreement to supply North Sea gas to Ruhrgas of Germany. The deal will take gas from the North Sea to continental Europe via the \$450 million Interconnector pipeline, now under construction, from the Norfolk coast to Zeebrugge in Belgium.

Rodney Chase, chief executive of BP Exploration, said: "This is a landmark gas supply deal for BP as it represents our first sale into continental Europe and our first use of the capacity we own in the Interconnector pipeline. It underscores the substantial and growing importance of BP's exploration and production portfolio in gas."

The company also announced that since the restructuring of its marketing activities in the UK last August, its share of the UK commercial and industrial market has more than doubled to 15 per cent and its combined sales of

gas to industry, commerce, the power sector and the spot market now place it second to British Gas in gas marketed in the UK.

Gas supplies for Ruhrgas will be delivered from BP's North Sea portfolio of fields and delivered to the Continent via the Interconnector pipeline, which begins at Bacton in Norfolk. Onward transmission from Zeebrugge to the German border will be undertaken by Distrigaz in Belgium.

The 235km pipeline is being developed by a company established by BP, British Gas, Conoco, Elf, Gazprom, Distrigaz, Ruhrgas, Amerada Hess and National Power. Ruhrgas expects first deliveries by BP to take place in October 1998.

Mr Chase said: "BP has played a major role in creating the link between the gas networks of the UK and continental Europe, and this deal is the confirmation of the opportunities that now exist for UK gas trading on a Europe-wide basis."

"In the longer term such a link will enhance the security of gas supplies and maintain the growing importance of gas as a fuel source."

BP's gas reserves are among the largest in the North Sea. BP Gas, a wholly owned subsidiary, annually supplies approximately 10 billion cubic metres of gas to the UK industrial, commercial, power and spot markets, and wholesale to British Gas.

Ruhrgas is one of the largest gas importers in the world. Its primary activity is associated with gas purchasing, transmission, storage and sales, with an annual gas sendout amounting to around 60 billion cubic metres.

Chase landmark deal

TRADE unionists angered by plant closure threats are turning against inward investment after years of celebrating the creation of thousands of UK jobs by foreign companies. Multinationals will readily take government sweeteners and exploit the low levels of protection granted to British workers. And those workers may be sacked ahead of their better-protected continental colleagues when costs have to be cut, said union officials.

A KPMG survey published today says that inward investment reached a record high last year. Sales of UK companies to foreign buyers rose from \$36.3 billion to \$38.5 billion. Foreign takeovers of UK companies in 1996 exceeded the total for all other EU countries combined.

The main reason is Britain's low cost base and the flexibility of its workforce.

But unions believe that flexibility means foreign companies can leave the UK just as easily as they have set up in the UK. Roger Butler, executive councillor of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, is negotiating with Ford over its decision to sack 1,300 workers at its Halewood plant on Merseyside. He said: "Sacking is cheap here, much cheaper than on the Continent."

"When TWA had to cut back by 10 per cent they found the cost of redundancies so prohibitive abroad, they bounced all the cuts to London."

Fears over the downside of inward investment have also

reached the TUC. Chris Savage, a trade policy specialist, said: "There is a danger of investment flowing out as well as in. The TUC is, however, in favour of all investments that create new jobs."

Stephen Barrett, the KPMG partner responsible for the survey, said: "Overall the positive aspects outweigh the negative."

Unions see drawbacks of inward investment

By OLIVER AUGUST

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Robert Greig, Callaway UK sales marketing manager, with some of the fake golf heads

Cadbury sale to Coke likely to satisfy EU

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE EUROPEAN Commission is expected this week to clear Cadbury's £700 million sale of its stake in a UK bottling venture to Coca-Cola Enterprises, with no strings attached.

The Commission had been examining the competition implications of Cadbury's sale of its 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages

(CCSB) but is believed to have concluded that the deal will make no fundamental difference to the bottling market.

Coca-Cola company is also selling its 49 per cent stake in the venture to Coca-Cola Enterprises. Richard Branson, of Virgin, has announced his intention to pursue a separate complaint about CCSB's discounting policies.

Callaway drive to halt fake golf clubs

By ADAM FRESCO

IT IS a picture that will break the heart of every golfer in the country — tens of thousands of pounds worth of golf clubs with the famous Callaway design being destroyed.

Callaway believed that the hundreds of drivers and fairway woods were just not up to their usual standard — and found that they were copies, part of an illegal trade that is costing millions of pounds.

A batch of the clubs, weighing eight tonnes, were seized when Callaway Golf won a High Court victory against Rata and Rata. Callaway was awarded £100,000 in costs and £300,000 in damages against Rata, which was selling clubs that had the "specific features" of Callaway's Big Bertha Metal Woods and Irons from stores at business parks.

Callaway extracted the shafts and flattened the club heads before selling them to a repossessing firm that will melt down the metal. The money will go to a golf charity.

Callaway drive to halt fake golf clubs

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Irish reserves and election add up to budget bonanza

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

BULGING government coffers in an election year should ensure that the Republic of Ireland's 1997 budget, due this Wednesday, will live up to its billing as the "giveaway" package of the decade.

Far from dampening expectations last week, Ruairi Quinn, Minister of Finance, had stoked media speculation by saying that hopes of tax cuts was entirely justified. Over the weekend, in the pre-budget White Paper, his department estimated the opening current budget surplus at Ir£471 million on the back of a 7 per cent rise in tax revenues to Ir£13.8 billion.

These estimates indicate that 5 per cent real GNP growth is expected this year. These figures follow a record-breaking year for tax revenues last year, which allowed the Government to undershoot its exchequer borrowing requirement target.

Committed to a Ir£1 billion tax cut package over the next three years in the recently completed national pay deal, Partnership 2000, large portions of Mr Quinn's speech wrote themselves. But given that this is the last budget before the three-party coalition Government goes to the polls, Mr Quinn will want to help all sectors. He is likely to

start with the low-middle income earners and offer them a one percentage point cut to the standard income tax rate of 27 per cent — the first reduction since 1992.

It is also widely believed he will reduce employee pay-related social insurance (PRSI) by one percentage point to 4.5 per cent. Together with increases to personal allowances and a slight widening of tax bands, these measures should put up to Ir£400 a year into the pockets of people in this sector. Most commentators believe he will maintain the top rate of income tax at 48 per cent.

The business community should also benefit from changes ranging from two percentage points off the 38 per cent standard rate of corporation tax, to a tweaking of the level at which employers make social insurance contributions.

As Mr Quinn comes from the centre-left Labour Party, and one of his coalition partners is a socialist Democratic Left party, the welfare package will probably be generous. It is believed he has set aside about Ir£15 million for social security increases, including bigger allowances for children. Mr Quinn will also extend the range of back-to-work measures adopted in the 1996 budget.

BA agrees dispute pact with pilots

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS has drawn up a formal agreement with its pilots aimed at avoiding the type of dispute that almost led to a strike last year.

The deal, which does not include a "no strike" clause, is centred on ten guidelines that both sides have agreed to follow well before any potential industrial relations problem can develop.

With BA still determined to achieve big cost savings it is inevitable that pilots, who earn a basic salary of up to £78,000 a year, will face big changes in their pay, conditions and working practices.

It was a widespread anger that their views and fears had been ignored by management that led the pilots to ballot overwhelmingly in favour of strike action last year.

Chris Darke, general-secretary of Balpa, the pilots' union that represents nearly all the 3,500 flight crew in the airline, said that the deal was a big step forward in industrial relations.

He added: "The aim is to change the culture we have had for a long time because we don't want the business to be run with the threat of a dispute just around the corner."

"We are not seeking to run the airline, but it would be desirable to sit down and discuss things in an open and frank way. Both sides have tended to come to the bargaining table with fixed views of what we want rather than sitting down and examining solutions."

Captain Mike Jeffery, BA's director of flight crew, said that during last year's pay dispute both sides were in their trenches. "We have to move away from a dogmatic approach."

BA agrees dispute pact with pilots

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CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT			
	*Six months ended	*Six months ended	*Six months ended
	31 Dec 1996	31 Dec 1995	30 Jun 1996
Revenue	8000	8000	8000
Income from rent and sale of property	7,633	6,828	8,219
Surplus on realisation of investments and fixed assets	9	257	-
Income from other sources	446	912	533
Income from investments	727	644	462
Interest received	533	538	494
	9,348	9,169	9,708
Expenditure	2,331	2,468	2,407
Administration and general	2,316	2,337	2,431
Interest paid	15	-	16
Profit before tax	7,017	6,701	7,291
Tax	2,616	2,732	2,854
Profit after tax	4,401	3,969	4,437
Earnings per share - cents	43	41	45
Dividends - in cents	25	41	31
Dividends - R000	2,556	4,194	3,107
- times covered	1.7	1.04	1.4
*Unaudited			

NOTES:
1. Dividends.
A dividend No. 147 of 30 cents per share, in respect of the six months ended 30 June 1996, amounting R3 167 305/100, was declared on 30 July 1996 and paid on 11 September 1996.
The interim dividend of 25 cents per share declared today for the six months ended 31 December 1996 is not comparable with the other dividends reflected above because of the change in financial year end. The last interim dividend, declared in respect of the six months ended 30 June 1995, was 20 cents per share.
2. Prospects.
Earnings in the second half of the current financial year are expected to be at least maintained at the level achieved in the six months to December 1996.
DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND
Dividend No. 148 of 25 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 7 February 1997.
Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 26 February 1997, or where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 25 February 1997.
The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.
The register of members will be closed from 8 February to 14 February 1997, inclusive.

75 Fox Street
Johannesburg
2001
17 January 1997

On behalf of the board:
J.G. Hopwood } Directors
A.B. Houghton }

The Chancellor served notice on the interest rate gloom-mongers last week. He said that the strength of sterling was "the key thing" behind his decision not to raise interest rates. Since sterling is set to remain strong, talk of rates of 7 per cent or more by the end of the year will probably prove overly pessimistic. Although the gilt market is not out of the woods yet, the bears' picnic is unlikely to last beyond the election.

The Chancellor's emphasis on sterling was a clear snub to the Bank of England. The Treasury is plainly placing more weight than the Bank on the view that sterling's strength will hold down inflation.

Back in November, the Bank went out of its way in its *Inflation Report* to cast doubt on the anti-inflationary consequences of sterling's strength. At the time, Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, said: "We should not set an easier monetary policy now because of sterling's strength."

The argument was that since sterling's strength partly reflected expectations of higher interest rates, failure to raise rates would prompt sterling to fall. Indeed, this line of reasoning led the Bank to argue

Strong sterling is paving way for rally in UK bonds

that sterling's strength was "probably temporary".

Yet two months on, sterling has risen a further 7 per cent against the mark. Moreover, the decision not to raise rates last week did it no harm.

Unfortunately, the disinflationary benefits of sterling's strength, evident for some time in producer prices, are only just starting to come through at retail level. In the meantime, the Bank, and the markets, will continue to fret about the strength of the domestic economy.

Accelerating consumer spending, plummeting unemployment, rising house prices and ballooning monetary growth add up to a potent case for higher rates. As if that were not enough, uncertainty surrounding the general election may be reason in itself for buyers to shy away from gilts.

However, looking a little further ahead, sterling's strength helps to paint a brighter picture. By mid-

year, retail price inflation may embark on a solid downward trend. The benign influences of producer price inflation at a 30-year low and falling import prices should see it fall into the target range of 2.5 per cent or less by the end of the year.

By then, economic growth may be cooling off. As with inflation, sterling's strength will pay a vital role.

GILT-EDGED

On a trade-weighted basis, sterling has risen 16 per cent in the past year, substantially eroding UK producers' price competitiveness. Tomorrow's CBI survey may show some of the damage that this has done to export orders. However, the full impact on the trade balance will not be clear until later in the year. Sadly for the Chancellor, sterling's strength is unlikely to be enough on

its own to cool the economy down. Although it cannot be entirely ruled out, he will be lucky to entirely escape the clutches of the higher interest rate lobby. Yet — in spite of buoyant incomes and falling unemployment — heavy indebtedness and the still-pervasive sense of job insecurity suggest that even a half-point rise in interest rates could dampen spending dramatically.

However, higher interest rates are not the only alternative. Indeed, the situation cries out not for a monetary policy tightening, but for a fiscal policy loosening. The risk in raising interest rates is that sterling will be pushed higher still, creating a disproportionate squeeze on exporters. By contrast, a fiscal tightening would bear more heavily on the buoyant domestic economy.

On this, the Treasury and the Bank seem to be closer together. Even back in November, Mervyn King suggested that "there must be

a concern that if this exchange rate persists there will be a growing imbalance between domestic and export demand". Sterling's subsequent rally will have heightened such concern, and the prospect of further German interest rate cuts suggests that sterling will stay well above November's level.

Tightening fiscal policy is obviously off the agenda this side of a general election. Crucially, this will not be so after the election, even if current income tax rates remain sacrosanct. If Labour wins, there is a good chance of an early fiscal tightening in a swap budget soon after the election.

This would not only forestall the need for further interest rate rises, but would also accelerate the fall in public sector borrowing. A £4 billion fiscal tightening should ensure a PSBR in 1997-98 of £15 billion, £4 billion less than the official forecast. So the gilt market can no longer afford to ignore sterling. Although the impact on the economy and policy may not be clear yet, its strength is laying the foundations for gilts to rally later in the year.

MARK CLIFFE
HSBC Markets

A programme set in stone

Material World, Radio 3, 9.00pm.

I dare say most of us could have survived to a ripe old age without anyone inventing the term "built environment", which raises the question of what is the unbuilt environment and whether, for those who believe in God, any part of the environment is unbuilt. An issue, perhaps, for *The Moral Maze*. Meanwhile the question for *Material World* concerns the nature of the materials we take for granted, and a most fascinating exercise this new series promises to be. The first subject is stone, from Roman temples in Lebanon to the new Hindu temple in north London. The series features poetic as well as architectural rhapsodising.

Grantskilled Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm.

Those of us who enjoy football in spite of a disadvantage — being brought up on Plymouth Argyle — are rarely troubled by the absolute requirement to hear a radio programme, so I hope that mentioning this unusual occurrence will not seem self-indulgent. By the sort of miracle that makes football a game of chance, Plymouth reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup in 1994. All sports made great by its capacity to induce nostalgia and this series proves that through the voices of those who contrived their 15 (or 50) minutes of fame. It also makes wider points about the fragility of football management: Johnny Hoare, manager at the time, appears in tonight's programme. He was sacked the following season. Peter Barnard

Star trader status loses its shine at Morgan Grenfell

Robert Miller looks into the repercussions of the high-profile suspension of Nicola Horlick

As City money managers and traders return to their desks and trading rooms in the Square Mile today the rights and wrongs of the Horlick case will continue to be hotly debated.

Sadly for Nicola Horlick, however, business will carry on as normal. It has to, both for the sake of Morgan Grenfell and for the fund management sector as a whole.

The reason is not hard to fathom. Increasingly these days, the so-called stars of the City are to be found managing money, as Mrs Horlick and her team did so successfully, rather than trading it on the foreign exchanges and securities markets. Profits from risky trading strategies, however well hedged, can bring rich rewards for individuals and their employers. But disasters can strike all too swiftly and are often accompanied by a precipitous plunge into the red.

British, American, European and Japanese finance houses have shown that they are prepared to spend millions to acquire the necessary managers and the critical mass to compete in the top league of global investment banks. The emphasis nowadays is on growing profits from managing pensions, insurance funds and unit and investment trusts rather than risky trading strategies.

Successful fund management teams, such as the one that Keith Percy, Mrs Horlick's boss, built at Morgan Grenfell before his departure in the wake of the Peter Young affair last autumn, will attract new business as well as keeping old clients happy. As the pool of money grows, so too will the stream of annual fees from managing the money.

Morgan Grenfell now faces pressure from two quarters.

The Frankfurt head office of Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's owner, will expect Michael Dobson, the chief executive of Deutsche's British operations, and Robert Smith, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, to act decisively to keep clients and get Mrs Horlick's old team working together under Neil Dunford.

Others members of the Horlick team, which managed £18 billion of UK pension funds, such as Adrian Frost and Anthony Creighton, Charlie Curless and Frances Davis, will also play key roles in stabilising the unsettled situation. They must reassure trustees acting on behalf of pension funds, including local authorities and Westminster City Council and the Railways Pension Trustee Company, that the service that they have received will continue.

The majority of managers and trustees who have placed money in Morgan Grenfell's care have indicated that they are prepared to listen and watch as a first step. Any withdrawal of funds would have to be carefully managed and could not be achieved overnight. But every move will be scrutinised for evidence that without Mr Percy, and now Mrs Horlick, the performance magic has gone. After the colourful and high-profile antics surrounding the Horlick suspension and resignation last week, insiders at Morgan Grenfell are determined to eschew the "star" trader syndrome. Instead, the emphasis will be on "house-style" and "team effort".

The fate that befell the highly rated Mr Percy illustrates the pitfalls that await even the most venerable City houses that over-promote, however unwittingly, "excep-



Nicola Horlick, with seven-month old Antonia, the youngest of her five children, yesterday

tional" ability. Indirectly this led to the Horlick affair. After Nick Leeson wreaked his £830 million damage at Barings and before the Peter Young business at Morgan Grenfell, City watchdogs began a radical rethink on how far up the management chain responsibility could be attributed in the event of a scandal.

Neither Mr Percy nor Mrs Horlick had any knowledge of

how Mr Young, who is the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation, broke City rules in managing two European funds. But Imro, the City regulator that is conducting its own inquiry into the breakdown of procedures, is determined to impress upon its charges and investors in general the responsibility borne by all senior managers within a group to be vigilant.

Imro, headed by Phillip Thorpe, is looking at the role played by Mr Percy, who received no payoff when he left Morgan Grenfell, and other senior managers and examining why the rule breaches were not detected earlier. Some time before Easter Imro is expected to announce that it has imposed a record-breaking fine on Morgan Grenfell, that could top £1 million, and

impose restrictions on the role certain former executives can play in the City for the foreseeable future. Not unnaturally, Imro refuses to discuss the case against the firm or individuals who may be involved until the announcement.

Mrs Horlick, who was recruited from Mercury Asset Management by Mr Percy, was fiercely loyal to him and upset when he left. One pension trustee client who saw both in action said: "Keith Percy was outstanding and we felt it unfortunate when he left. Nicola Horlick is very bright, but after Keith had gone the feeling among us was that she still had to prove she was mature enough to cope."

In the aftermath of Mr Percy's departure Mrs Horlick was regarded as a key weapon in Morgan Grenfell's charm offensive to clients to reassure them that it was "business as usual". If she had harboured ambitions to step into her former boss's shoes those hopes would have been dashed when Mr Smith, a tough-talking Scottish accountant, was appointed to replace Mr Percy. Nevertheless the burden of leadership in the fund management arm — Mr Smith came from venture capital — fell to Mrs Horlick.

It appears that Mrs Horlick was unsettled and her team expressed concerns that she might leave to senior executives. Just days before she was suspended, Mr Smith promoted Mrs Horlick to managing director. Mr Smith was then informed, whether correctly or not, that Mrs Horlick had not only been in talks with a view to joining ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, but that she might also take about 12 of her team with her. She has denied this.

As for Mrs Horlick, one noted City sage said last night: "In the immediate future the most obvious solution is for her to set up her own company."

Bealer-dealer

THE dealing manager of City Deal is defecting from East to West. Nick Bealer, nicknamed "Vic" because of his one-time aspirations to enter the Church, is leaving the Remford-based execution-only brokers to join Quartz Capital, the EASDAQ brokers, as a sales trader.

COLETTE BOWE Branching into cosmetics? Flicking through a home shopping catalogue, for All Your Beauty Needs, it appears that the chief executive of the PIA is branching into the skin care market, with the launch of PIA International. Whatever next — *Parfum de Lustre*?

MORAG PRESTON

How to enjoy a holy hogmanay

TOM FARMER is back in town. It takes a lot to drag a Scot away from his homeland at hogmanay, but this year the chairman of Kwik-Fit left Edinburgh's jam-packed streets to spend the new year in Jerusalem.

The fast-talking dealmaker was in the holy city for the wedding of co-director Ervin Landau's daughter. "He's been a colleague for 25 years, and I jumped at the invitation," said Farmer. "But I only agreed once I'd been assured that I'd be able to see Edinburgh's hogmanay party on satellite TV out there."

Farmer, a devout Catholic who visits Lourdes every sum-

mer as a helper, added: "It's not that I'm a holy holy person. But this is a hard business I'm in, and any help I can get is welcome, especially from above."

Reed's wrath

BRITISH TELECOM is about to feel the wrath of Reed Personnel Services after it left the communications department at the recruitment specialists' uncontactable. When Reed's press office re-

cently moved from New Bond Street to High Holborn, it was at least a week before BT connected the telephone lines. Reed is raring to take action.

MICKEY CLARK, The Times's stock market correspondent, will make a guest appearance on the EBN channel next weekend, the first of the European business network's themed weekends. It will include a glimpse of Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, singing in

his bath. For his cameo appearance, Mickey was decked out from top-toe in Sixties garb. And just in case flower-power shirts and flares weren't sufficiently offputting, our chirpy cockney also wore a Mystic Meg-style wig.

Smoke dispenser

TOBACCO-loving City types will be excited to hear about the world's first cigar-vending machine. Created by Critical

Solutions in the US, the "Cigar Sir" doubles as a humidifier. It dispenses up to 25 brands of cigar, accepts a variety of credit cards, and will also take \$100 bills. The vending humidifier will be unveiled early next month at Galileo, Roberto Donna's chic Washington DC restaurant. However, customers who purchase a cigar on the premises will be forced to enjoy it outside. Like many upmarket US restaurants, this one is strictly non-smoking.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



NEEDED TO KEEP MY HANDS BUSY...

AFTER GIVING UP SMOKING...

SO I STARTED PAINTING

Give me a cigarette!

How many reasons do you need to try Nicobrevin?

Nicobrevin is designed to provide support for those who want to give up smoking. It does NOT contain Nicotine & is non habit forming.

Nicobrevin is available from larger 'Boots the Chemists' & local Chemists.

A weekend with the lads is a mixed blessing

Marlon Brando is generally considered to have died in the interview with the Princess of Wales pretty well, so it was encouraging to see him on more pedestrian form during *Tony Bullimore: The Great Survivor* (BBC1, Friday). Had he, inquired Brando, ever seriously thought he might die?

The nation paused while it considered the facts. Boat broken and upside down in stormy Southern Ocean... porthole smashed, so boat filling with water... thousands of miles from land... very cold and part of little finger hanging off. Given the outlook, what sort of reply did Brando expect? No, never crossed my mind? Bullimore, however, was gentle with him, and he had seriously thought about dying. In fact, it was right up there on his "Things To Do Next" list.

Bullimore was lucky, doubly lucky. Not only was he rescued but

he did all the difficult surviving bit by himself, which means no one else can challenge his version of events and that when the inevitable film is made he will be played by the prettiest actor. The problems start only when more than one person survives an ordeal, as we discovered in *The Place of the Dead* (ITV, Saturday). We were off to Low's Gully. Low's where?

A helpful scene of information helped those of us with poor memories. February 1994, British Army, Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia. Suddenly it all came rushing back. Ah, that Low's Gully, the one where all those soldiers got lost. But wait, there was still another paragraph to read. "Some scenes, characters and dialogue have been created for the purposes of dramatisation." Now that was definitely familiar. It also explained the beautiful girl who emerged from a waterfall during the second hour, clad only in a very

wet dress. For the purposes of dramatisation - of course.

The film was based on an account written by Corporal Hugh Britton, which meant that he got to be played by Greg Wise and be generally heroic and the others were pretty right or wrong, they didn't. The one crucial exception was Lance Corporal Richard Mayfield, who despite (or perhaps because of) his uncertain goodie/baddie status was played by Dougray Scott, an actor who, under an Army regulation haircut and a thick layer of jungle mud, could easily be Wise's twin brother. This made keeping up with who said what to whom rather difficult - which was a shame, because it was important.

The good things about the film were the jungle, the waterfalls (with or without fantasy females) and some competent acting. The bad things were its

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

endless length, an inexplicable interest in dead blackbirds and an almost complete absence of tension. We knew what happened in the end and, as Jeff Pope's screenplay had little new to say about why it happened, the whole thing became rather tedious. These dramatisations are all the vogue at the moment for those having to pay real writers to make something up, but they must offer some fresh

insight if interest is to be sustained rather than suspended.

It was about now that the full implications of what was rapidly becoming a *Boy's Own* weekend became clear. I hadn't seen a woman on television for hours - not a proper one anyway. The weekend, you see, post-Bullimore and Brando, had continued unwise with an hour in the company of Craig Charles, an actor who, by some strange twist of television fate, has two male ensemble comedies running on BBC2 and Channel 4 on Friday evening almost at the same time. If jokes about farting, body parts and having sex with sheep are your thing, then you probably know all about Red Dwarf (BBC2) and Captain Butler (Channel 4) already. Never mind new lads, this is the sad sad land.

The similarities between the two series are astonishing. Both are period pieces - one set in the

science-fiction future, the other in the pirate past. Both have entirely male casts, although a last-minute change of episode did bring a mermaid into *Captain Butler*. Out with the sex with sheep jokes and in came all the sex with fish jokes. Sophisticated stuff.

O the final similarity is that Charles plays the same role in both which, regardless of scene or century, is basically stereotypical Liverpudlian. So, when the Starbuck's reserves of popadums and chicken vindaloo are destroyed, as they were in the first episode of *Red Dwarf*, he - in this case Lister - took it very badly. Mind you, there was worse: the lager copped it too. The crew suggested a minute's flatulence as a mark of respect. Oh, please.

Despite such lamentable comic banter, *Red Dwarf* is the faster, sharper and cleverer of the two (although you'd have to see *Cap-*

tain Butler to appreciate why). Travelling back in time in search of new curry supplies was hardly ground-breaking stuff, but persuading President Kennedy to shoot himself from the grassy knoll (thus guaranteeing immortality as a liberal icon) was close. "I'll drive the conspiracy theorists mad." Best line of a poor night.

Still no women. I turned to Arena: Dear Antonioni (BBC2). After all, I'm a big fan of *Blow-Up*, so that makes me a big fan of Antonioni, right? Wrong. As I discovered after 90 tortuous minutes of an Italian-made film that illustrated perfectly the vast cultural divide between film criticism on this side of the English Channel and the other. What liking *Blow-Up* makes me is another poor fool who dreamt of driving around London in a convertible Rolls-Royce and cavorting with photographic models. One more for the sad sad land, then.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (71827)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (92223)
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (4645049)
9.20 ALL OVER THE SHOP (8602223)
9.45 KILROY (1806575)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (11285)
11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (010827)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (1782484)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (898594)
12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (7798446)
12.05pm THE ALPHABET GAME (892730)
12.30 GOING FOR A SONG (466285)
12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (2715852)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (95310)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (4475584)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (7457643)
2.05 FILM: Kiss Shot (1989) with Whoopi Goldberg. An unemployed single mother is encouraged by her daughter to return to the professional pool circuit. Directed by Jerry London (8538407)
3.30 PLAYDAYS (3685204) 3.50 Pingu (2370223) 3.55 Badger and Badger (504074) 4.10 Gadget Boy (141020)
4.30 Record Breakers Gold (766417)
5.00 Newsround (T) (823551) 5.10 Blue Peter (1669198)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (749339)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (301)
6.30 NEWSROOM SOUTH EAST (843)
7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE. Michael Aspel surprises another personality with the infamous "Red Book" (T) (2730)
7.30 WATCHDOG: Face Value. Alice Beer takes a look at fashion and beauty issues, including a report on the labourers who make Disney's 101 Dalmatians T-shirts. Plus, a special report on the truth about cosmetics with added vitamins (T) (827)
8.00 EASTENDERS: Tilly comes to a decision (T) (8778)
8.30 THE BRITANNIA EMPIRE. Whitby Leisure Centre grinds to a halt as Britannia's high-tech computer system goes online (T) (7285)
9.00 NEWS (T) and weather (3007)
9.30 PANORAMA: Crime and Punishment. In the second of two programmes on law and order, Gavin Hewitt endeavours to discover if tougher conditions and longer prison sentences will bring about a rapid decrease in crime (T) (13522)
10.10 FILM: Ruby Wax Meets in the first of new series Ruby meets the actress Sharon Stone (T) (833339)
10.40 SILENT WITNESS (T) (7) (82594)
WILES: 10.40 The State (894136) 11.10 Film 97 (831594) 11.40 FILM: The Other Side of Love (125943) 1.00am News
11.30 FILM 97 WITH BARRY NORMAN. Hugh Grant talks about his new movie, *The Cuckoo's Nest*, and his new film, *Flirting with Disaster* and *The Frighteners* (T) (82117)
12.00 FILM: The Other Side of Love (1991) Cheryl Ladd as a divorced mother of three who, wrongly imprisoned on a drug charge, fights to clear her name. Directed by Anthony Royce (8924)
1.30am WEATHER (227077)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Great Exhibition (899575) 6.50 Victorian High Church (123339) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (2441885) 7.55 Blue Peter (2238200)
8.20 Pingu (3635204) 8.25 Hairy Jeremy (8255310) 8.35 Lassie (3385575) 9.00 TV (13649) 9.30 Pathways of Belief (8129117) 9.45 Technology Starters (8117372) 10.00 Playdays (54575) 10.30 Pakistan and its People (5421372) 10.50 Look and Read (5441136) 11.10 Zig Zag (5823020) 11.30 Ghostwriter (2952)
12.00 Testament: The Bible in Animation (33407) 12.30pm Working Lunch (80049)
1.00 History File (8005759) 1.20 German Globo (8946139) 1.25 Landmarks (8006354) 1.45 Storytime (4478522) 2.00 Pingu (9385136) 2.05 Hairy Jeremy (8538407)
2.10 FILM: Men in War (1957, b/w) starring Robert Ryan and Aldo Ray. Two antagonistic soldiers are forced to overcome their differences while making their way across enemy territory. Directed by Anthony Mann (452074)
3.55 NEWS (T) (2371136)
4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (555) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (440) 5.00 Esther (3378) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (420)
6.00 SPACE PRECINCT (T) (T) (527846)
6.45 AS SEEN ON TV (T) (153631)
7.00 PEOPLE'S CENTURY. Chronicle of the unprecedented political activity which grew out of the 1980s so-called counter-culture (T) (9117)
8.00 LOCAL HEROES. Adam Hart-Davis visits East Anglia, where he recreates a treadmill for the torture of prisoners and a machine that lets incompetent artists draw like experts (T) (9020)
8.30 FILM: University Challenge. Easter College, Oxford, take on Corpus Christi, Cambridge, for a place in the second round. Presented by Jeremy Paxman (T) (8527)
9.00 FILM: Stuttered Family (1993) starring Richard Dreyfuss, Rhea Perlman and Linda Kelsey. An 11-year-old boy fights his natural mother in court for the right to live with an adoptive family. Directed by Sandy Smolen (9488) 10.28 Video Nation Shorts (89449)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (T) (877861)
11.15 THE NET. Benin Woolley and Fennelle George follow the work of the Net police. Luc Sante discusses the controversial merits of using the Internet. Plus, the novelist William Gibson reveals his vision of the future for virtual celebrities (312048) 11.55 Weather (825440)
12.00 THE HIT NIGHT. 12.00 O.U.: Chemistry 12.30am LEARNING ZONE: O.U.: Chemistry 1.00 Elements Organised: The Periodic Table 1.30 Equilibrium Rules OK! 2.00 Music Makers 4.00 Film 2000 4.30 Science Master Classes 5.30 RCN Nursing Update

- CHOICE**
- Cutting Edge: The Builders Are Coming Channel 4, 9.00pm**
Track down half a dozen people who have had trouble with builders, and builders who are willing to hit back, and you have the perfect formula for a documentary. Madonna Benjamin's enjoyable film is not about cowboys so much as builders who say it will take three months when they know it will be six, and she makes it clear that the fault is by no means always on one side. Among Benjamin's well-chosen cast are Rhona, a headmistress, and her husband Jerry. She is desperate to get the builders out of her life, he keeps finding them extra jobs to do. It gets even worse when one of the men on the building site is killed by a falling beam and the deadline slips again. Putting the case for the trade is Simon, who has piled it for 35 years. His philosophy is that whatever you do, the customer will end up hating you.
- Dark Skies: Moving Targets Channel 4, 10.00pm**
Even after last week's helpful two-hour pilot, the scenario of this science-fiction rewrite of recent American history is not always easy to untangle. Even our hero, matter wondrously played by Eric Close, looks puzzled at times. But hold on to the fact that Close's young John is destined to be a light of goodness in a very murky world and you cannot go far wrong. The premise of the show is that UFOs spotted at the Roswell army air base in 1947 were not fragments of overactive imagination but the first of an attempt by alien forces to conquer America. This puts an entirely different slant on much of what happened in America subsequently, not least the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Conspiracy theorists, eat your heart out. The potent mixture of fact and invention continues to intrigue.
- Ruby Wax Meets... Sharon Stone BBC1, 10.10pm**
A recent episode of *3rd Children* found plumber Ben deeply depressed at reaching his 38th birthday, which made him nearly 40 and therefore only one step away from senility. It is unlikely that Sharon Stone watches *3rd Children* but her interview with Ruby Wax contains uncanny parallels. Stone, too, is 38, as she never stops telling us, and like poor Ben is obsessed with growing old. To be specific, she is not thrilled with what is happening to her knees, as she proceeds to demonstrate. That the unveiling of Stone's knees is a highlight sums up the quality of the show, a boisterous and often incoherent affair in which Wax, for once, encounters somebody as smart and capable as herself. On this evidence, if Stone wants a career move as she approaches middle age it should be into screwball comedy.
- Jamie ER Channel 4, 11.00pm**
When the new casualty doctor, J.T. Heir, arrives at Kingston Public Hospital for his first shift, he thinks he has come to the wrong place. The same thought may occur to the viewer. It is not just the armed police who guard the entrance, and the sound of gunshots in the street, but the dreadful carnage that awaits the medical team inside. Heir flicks his place of work to a war zone and it is hard to disagree. His first case is a man covered in knife wounds. Later he tries to save a street brawler who has been slashed in the arm over where to set up his stall. The maternity ward provides less shocking footage but the social realities are just as disturbing. Sharon, 26, is about to have a baby. She refuses to name the father and fears that the child may have inherited her syphilis. This is definitely not the Jamaica of the tourist brochures. Peter Waymark

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (1568049)
9.25 WIN, LOSE OR DRAW (8683914)
9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (9493339)
10.00 THE TIME, THE PLACE (41001)
10.30 THIS MORNING (8304623)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (7785730)
12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (468881)
12.55 HIGH ROAD (T) (4683372) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (14955312) 1.55 Savannah (T) (8025136) 2.50 Getaways (T)
3.20 NEWS (6193223)
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (6192594)
3.30 TOTS TV (450925) 3.40 Rainbow Days (1218946) 3.50 Gooly (1998801) 4.05 Scooby's Amazing Adventure (810196)
4.20 Adam's Family Tree (143272) 4.45 Art Attack (7655468)
5.10 BAGDAD CAFE (8828914)
5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (982117)
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (T) (T) (726914)
6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (365189)
7.00 WISH YOU WERE HERE? Featuring reports from Sardinia, Iceland and the Caribbean island of St Barts (T) (4198)
7.30 CORONATION STREET. Curly comes to a domestic compromise with Samantha (T)
8.00 WORLD IN ACTION. Three years ago *World in Action* revealed that millions of landmines have been laid in one third of the countries on the planet and remain active for years afterwards. With the issue being brought back into the public domain, the programme endeavours to discover what has been done to halt this trade in human destruction (T) (3846)
8.30 BLUES AND TWOS. Cameras follow paramedics Dave Pascoe and John Pollard of Cornwall's air ambulance service (T) (5881)
9.00 MCCALLUM. Sacrifice. McCallum discovers further alarming evidence concerning the seemingly accidental death of a friend and neighbour, which points the finger of suspicion at the grieving widow (2/2) (T) (2827)
10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (21652)
10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (478049)
10.40 NASH BRIDGES. Joe and Nash track down a notorious heroin dealer (546759)
11.35 MAINLY MEN. Magazine for men presented by John Leslie (874469)
12.05am ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS (193518)
12.35 FOOTBALL EXTRA (2921044)
1.20 WAR OF THE WORLDS (720095)
2.15 CLUB NATION (T) (125402)
3.15 GOD'S GIFT (T) (438058)
4.10 WELTER SKELTER (3496082) 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (78179) 5.30 News (38976)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
1.25pm 1.25 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (463372)
2.50 BLUE HEELERS (1681914)
2.45 BREAKAWAYS (2128204)
2.50-3.20 HIGH ROAD (9123730)
3.50-4.00 SHORTLAND STREET (8828914)
6.25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (365189)
11.35 NEW YORK NEWS (489285)
1.20am LATE AND LOUD (4753353)
2.20 REAL STORIES OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL (4017599)
2.45 FILM: THIS MAN STANDS ALONE (409605)
4.25 CENTRAL JOBBINDER '97 (3482889)
5.20 ASIAN EYE (522228)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 ILLUMINATIONS (7785730)
12.55-1.25 GARDENERS' DIARY (4683372)
1.50 BRIEF ENCOUNTERS (7468255)
2.20 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (917020)
3.10-3.20 BREAKAWAYS (642381)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8828914)
6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (65594)
10.30 WESTCOUNTRY NEWS (452001)
10.45 NASH BRIDGES (538730)
11.40 PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H (762020)
11.40am FREESCREEN (78179)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 CROSSWITS (4683372)
1.50 MURDER, SHE WROTE (8017117)
2.50-3.20 GARDENS WITHOUT BORDERS (9123730)
3.50-4.00 SHORTLAND STREET (8828914)
6.25-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (365189)
10.30 ANGLIA NEWS (452001)
10.45 NASH BRIDGES (538730)
11.40 HIGHLANDER (762020)
- SAC**
- Starts: 6.00am SESAME STREET (7865)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (89533) 8.00 BENTON (89533) 9.30 YOGOLION (485001) 12.00 RIGHT TO REPLY (25575)
12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (55117) 1.00 SLOT MEETHIRN (88020) 1.30 FILM: THREE CASE HOME (55440) 3.30 FRANCES BISSSELL'S WEST COUNTRY KITCHEN (117) 4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (952) 4.30 SEVENHUNDRED (130) 5.00 S PULP (6204) 5.00 COUNTDOWN (458) 6.00 NEWYODION (34064) 6.05 HENO (737020) 6.35 GEAR AM AUR (619285) 7.00 POSOL V CWM (847391) 7.25 Y BYD AR BEDWAR (112488) 8.00 BACHA H O'MA (1488) 8.30 NEWYODION (223) 9.00 HEROES OF COMEDY: JOYCE KENNEL (7359) 9.00 SPOORIO (3558) 11.00-1.00am Film: HANG 'EM HIGH (5373643) 4.00 YSGOLION (572168)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am SESAME STREET (7865) The Big Breakfast (89533) 8.00 Bewitched (48339) 9.30 Shows (485001) 12.00 Right To Reply (25575) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (55117) 1.00 Slot Meethirn (88020) 1.30 Film: Three Case Home (55440) 3.30 Frances Bissell's West Country Kitchen (117) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (952) 4.30 Sevenhundred (130) 5.00 S Pulp (6204) 5.00 Countdown (458) 6.00 Newyodion (34064) 6.05 Heno (737020) 6.35 Gear Am Aur (619285) 7.00 Posol V Cwm (847391) 7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (112488) 8.00 Bacha H O'Ma (1488) 8.30 Newyodion (223) 9.00 Heroes of Comedy: Joyce Kennel (7359) 9.00 Spoorio (3558) 11.00-1.00am Film: Hang 'Em High (5373643) 4.00 Ysgolion (572168)
- Meridian**
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1.50 GETAWAYS (7468255)
2.20-3.20 BLUE HEELERS (1681914)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8828914)
6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (759)
6.30-7.00 COUNTRY WAYS (339)
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- Starts: 6.00am SESAME STREET (7865)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (89533) 8.00 BENTON (89533) 9.30 YOGOLION (485001) 12.00 RIGHT TO REPLY (25575)
12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (55117) 1.00 SLOT MEETHIRN (88020) 1.30 FILM: THREE CASE HOME (55440) 3.30 FRANCES BISSSELL'S WEST COUNTRY KITCHEN (117) 4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (952) 4.30 SEVENHUNDRED (130) 5.00 S PULP (6204) 5.00 COUNTDOWN (458) 6.00 NEWYODION (34064) 6.05 HENO (737020) 6.35 GEAR AM AUR (619285) 7.00 POSOL V CWM (847391) 7.25 Y BYD AR BEDWAR (112488) 8.00 BACHA H O'MA (1488) 8.30 NEWYODION (223) 9.00 HEROES OF COMEDY: JOYCE KENNEL (7359) 9.00 SPOORIO (3558) 11.00-1.00am Film: HANG 'EM HIGH (5373643) 4.00 YSGOLION (572168)



Builders Gary and Andy (9.00pm)

- Channel 4**
- 6.00am SESAME STREET (7865) The Big Breakfast (89533) 8.00 Bewitched (48339) 9.30 Shows (485001) 12.00 Right To Reply (25575) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (55117) 1.00 Slot Meethirn (88020) 1.30 Film: Three Case Home (55440) 3.30 Frances Bissell's West Country Kitchen (117) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (952) 4.30 SEVENHUNDRED (130) 5.00 S PULP (6204) 5.00 COUNTDOWN (458) 6.00 NEWYODION (34064) 6.05 HENO (737020) 6.35 GEAR AM AUR (619285) 7.00 POSOL V CWM (847391) 7.25 Y BYD AR BEDWAR (112488) 8.00 BACHA H O'MA (1488) 8.30 NEWYODION (223) 9.00 HEROES OF COMEDY: JOYCE KENNEL (7359) 9.00 SPOORIO (3558) 11.00-1.00am Film: HANG 'EM HIGH (5373643) 4.00 YSGOLION (572168)
- Meridian**
- As HTV West except:
1.50 GETAWAYS (7468255)
2.20-3.20 BLUE HEELERS (1681914)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8828914)
6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (759)
6.30-7.00 COUNTRY WAYS (339)
10.30 MERIDIAN NEWS (452001)
10.45 NASH BRIDGES (538730)
11.40 PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H (762020)
11.40am FREESCREEN (78179)
- Anglia**
- As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 CROSSWITS (4683372)
1.50 MURDER, SHE WROTE (8017117)
2.50-3.20 GARDENS WITHOUT BORDERS (9123730)
3.50-4.00 SHORTLAND STREET (8828914)
6.25-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (365189)
10.30 ANGLIA NEWS (452001)
10.45 NASH BRIDGES (538730)
11.40 HIGHLANDER (762020)
- SAC**
- Starts: 6.00am SESAME STREET (7865)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (89533) 8.00 BENTON (89533) 9.30 YOGOLION (485001) 12.00 RIGHT TO REPLY (25575)
12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (55117) 1.00 SLOT MEETHIRN (88020) 1.30 FILM: THREE CASE HOME (55440) 3.30 FRANCES BISSSELL'S WEST COUNTRY KITCHEN (117) 4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (952) 4.30 SEVENHUNDRED (130) 5.00 S PULP (6204) 5.00 COUNTDOWN (458) 6.00 NEWYODION (34064) 6.05 HENO (737020) 6.35 GEAR AM AUR (619285) 7.00 POSOL V CWM (847391) 7.25 Y BYD AR BEDWAR (112488) 8.00 BACHA H O'MA (1488) 8.30 NEWYODION (223) 9.00 HEROES OF COMEDY: JOYCE KENNEL (7359) 9.00 SPOORIO (3558) 11.00-1.00am Film: HANG 'EM HIGH (5373643) 4.00 YSGOLION (572168)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (891033) 8.00 Desperate Women (80575) 9.30 Desperate Women (80575) 10.00 Another World (22001) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (89403) 12.00 The Couch Wives Show (9468)
1.00pm Gordo (5358) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (4255) 3.00 Jerry Jones (7340)
4.00 The Couch Wives Show (9468) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (8973) 6.00 Real TV (2365) 6.30 Manned - with Chris Egan (8117) 7.00 The Simpsons (7263) 7.30 MASH (2001) 8.00 Trade Winds (4655) 10.00 Nash Bridges (3737) 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (8973) 12.00 L.A.P.D. (7005) 12.30am The Lucy Show (5624) 1.00 H.M. (83112)
- SKY 2**
- 7.00pm The Legend of Johnny (890339) 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (894758) 9.00 Footprints: The Legend (890723) 10.00 Outer Limits (890339) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (894758) 12.00 The Lucy Show (5624) 1.00 H.M. (83112)
- SKY NEWS**
- Weekend news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- SKY MOVIES**
- 6.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 6.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 7.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 7.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 8.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 8.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 9.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 9.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 10.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 10.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 11.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 11.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 12.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 12.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 1.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 1.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 1.50am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 2.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 2.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 3.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 3.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 4.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 4.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 5.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 5.30am Big Brother (1988) (5514) 6.00am Big Brother (1988) (5514)

- Waterfall (1988) (5511) 2.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 3.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 4.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 5.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 6.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 7.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 8.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 9.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 10.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 11.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 12.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (1988) (5511)**

